

[15th March 1934]

order issued by the Government. I want to know whether there is any special reason for the Government saying so in this particular case."

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I have stated there are many cases of this nature. In all these cases the Government will interfere when the annual report of the auditor is received."

Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Is there any rule which forbids the district board, from accepting any tender other than the lowest tender?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The rule says the lowest satisfactory tender must be accepted."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is there any rule permitting the District Board President to accept a higher tender and then reduce the amount of such a tender himself without the knowledge of others and then accept it?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"There is no particular rule either forbidding or allowing it."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1934-35.

DEMAND X—SECRETARIAT AND HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHMENTS,
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS—RESERVED.

The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The discussion on Demand X will continue."

* Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Now I want to discuss the omissions of the Madras Government in their administration of this Presidency. One of the very grave omissions is not tackling the unemployment problem. All the world over the unemployment problem has been tackled by various countries and they have come to some solution or other which they are putting into practice. Especially now at a time of world depression they are very active at it. But here in our country the Government have not moved their little finger towards it. Not only Germany but all the world over, in Italy, America and England this question is being tackled. Now commenting upon this debate the *Madras Mail* says:—

'In opening the Leipzig Fair Dr. Gobbels announced that the German Government had succeeded in reducing unemployment from 6,000,000 to 3,750,000.' and by a new campaign they are going to reduce this figure by another two millions. *The Madras Mail* says:—

'If the figures quoted are reasonably accurate the first has been remarkably successful and it would appear to be an example to all countries which are suffering from unemployment.'

About the national labour quoted the other day by the Hon. the Finance Member various countries not only Germany, but England, Italy and America have adopted that organization. They are having national labour corps, they are creating national building schemes and are engaging the work of the national labour corps upon such schemes.

15th March 1934] [Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar]

Sir, this is done on a large scale in Germany. But only in Germany it is done in a quasi-military system. Now this unemployment question affects our Province socially, economically, medically and sanitarily. Economically because our labour power and brain power are being wasted and socially because it makes our society miserable and depressed. It was said by one lecturer the other day that a gentleman in Kumbakonam, a graduate not finding the means of livelihood took his wife and three children to the river Cauvery and drowned them and drowned himself. The other day a woman came to me with six children and said that they were a decently living family and somehow or other her husband had lost his appointment and he was unemployed for the last two years. As she belonged to a decent family she could not go and beg and she had not a morsel of food for the children, though she and her husband could starve even for the next meal. This is not a case for tears to be shed from our eyes but blood from our heart.

“ Referring to another book, it is not a German that writes this book but Mr. Keynes, Fellow and Bursar of King’s College, Cambridge, who mentions that there is danger to society on account of unemployment. To quote his own works :—

‘ Even if we refused to recognize any normal duty to the unemployed on the part of the State and the society we should still have to pay heed to the social dangers arising out of the fact that through no fault of their own hundreds of thousands or millions of human beings who are perfectly willing to work can find no employment for many weeks or months.’

Sir, this unemployment equally affects the health of our Province. Sir, 11-15 people without food and clothing and without necessities of life become a.m. de-vitalized and predispose themselves to the attacks of diseases. Here is what an American writer, a Professor of Chicago, writes about the effects of unemployment. He is not a German, Sir. He says :—

‘ The impairment of the food, clothing, and housing standards of the families leads in turn to an increase in illness. The Children’s Bureau found that during the unemployment period of 1920-21, there had been some illness in two-thirds of the 300 families investigated.’

All over the world the people are trying to find a solution for the unemployment problem. The Governments are appointing professors of colleges and other experienced economists to make researches into the causes and effects of unemployment and find a solution for the evil. They want to find a synthetic solution for the benefit of humanity for this paradoxical fact, namely, that—

‘ Men must starve because they have produced too much food, or go naked because they have produced too many clothes, or sleep in the parks because they have built too many houses.’

The people all over the world are struggling hard to find a synthetic solution. But in India what are we doing? These are the gentlemen, the civilians, who have come to rule over us. I have always had an opinion about them. If a civilian occupies a post even for one hour, he thinks as though he would be there for all time and tries his level best to do as much good as possible. That is my opinion after having come into

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [15th March 1934]

contact with many civilians and that was more than confirmed when I came into contact with Mr. Conran Smith when he was Commissioner of the Madras Corporation. In everything he did, he thought that the Corporation was his own and he should do as much good to it as was possible. Perhaps that is why they have erected a statue for him in the Corporation. There is one other thing about these civilians and that is they know more about our people than many of us do, because they have risen from the lowest rungs of the civilian ladder where they have had plenty of opportunities of coming into contact with the people. How can these civilians who have been in charge of districts neglect the interests of the people whom they know so well? In their own country, they have the National Insurance Act, the National Health Insurance Act, the Widowers, Orphans and Old Age Pensions Act, the Unemployment Insurance Act, the Unemployed Workmen Act, the Labour Exchange Act and various other schemes to safeguard the interests of the people of Great Britain, but the very officers have not moved their little finger to do anything in those directions in this country whose destinies are committed to their care to-day.

“ There is another grave omission. There is no provision for poor relief. Sir, there is not one poor house in the whole Presidency. I read the other day, that in Germany they carry the relief to the very door of the needy people. If the bread-winner of a family is not earning enough to maintain his family, the Government or the local municipality go to his door and give him the necessary assistance. Of course, when I speak of Germany, I am not speaking of the present-day Germany, but of the Germany of the old days when it was a unified and a consolidated whole. I am speaking of that Germany which threatened to conquer the whole world and not of the present-day Germany as I have not known much about it. I am told, however, that in present-day Germany they have all the things I have mentioned just now and in addition they are organizing a National Labour Force. I do not want that we should copy the example of Germany where the papers say—I do not know whether it is true or not—that they are contemplating to allow the crippled children to be killed. I am afraid they carry economy too far. They do not know that even crippled people have their own contribution to make to the society in which they live. In these days it is not only the body but the brain too that contributes to the society. I believe health is preserved mostly in order that disease may be warded off. It was possible for a crippled lady, blind and deaf, to produce a valuable book, theological and philosophical. Therefore, Sir, I want to make it clear that I am not speaking of the modern Germany but that of the pre-war Germany. Now Germany might have improved upon that:

“ I will now come to another serious omission on the part of the Government. There are hospitals to take care of the sick, whose diseases are curable, but where are the institutions to take care of people whose diseases are incurable, the diseased poor? In Germany, again, I am told that there are homes for such people. But what have our Government

15th March 1934] [Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar]

done in that direction? What about the poor diseased beggars, beggars suffering from incurable tuberculosis and burnt-out cases of leprosy? The Lepers Colony at Tirumani looks after lepers whose leprosy is curable and some burnt-out cases; but where is the institution to take care of the burnt-out cases of leprosy? They do not need any medical attention; what they need is a home and care. These are a few of the omissions and there are many more which I will in due course bring to the notice of these mature, ripened and seasoned civilians.

“ I will now come to the Secretariat about which I should like to say a few words. There is a strong feeling in the country that all the communities should be adequately represented in the Secretariat. I cordially support this demand and I wish very much that the Depressed Classes get their due share and that one of them should even be appointed as a Secretary to Government. There is also a grievance that the Ceded Districts are not adequately represented in the Secretariat. Therefore, Sir, the Government should see that all the communities and all the districts are adequately represented in the Secretariat; the Government should appoint people from the various communities and the various districts if capable men are available in those communities and districts. With regard to our Secretary, Mr. Krishna Ayyar, he is a very able and clever man. It is our desire to keep him with us always. He must be given some promotion. I wish that the Government do not deprive the Council of his services by sending him somewhere on promotion. They might appoint him as Law Secretary, and keep him there permanently even relaxing the three years' rule as a special case. In that case, he will be immensely useful to us, and our Varma will be promoted to be the Secretary to the Council.

“ Now, my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, said that the backward communities are not taken care of. As far as my information and knowledge go, the backward communities are particularly taken care of. They are given half-fee concessions which are not given to members of advanced communities. I wish very much that Depressed Classes are given free education and that they are exempted from the payment of examination fees.”

MR. C. BASU DEV:—“ Sir, I was not referring to educational facilities for backward classes, but to their representation in Government service.”

* RAO BAHADUR C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—“ From education comes the appointment. I wish very much that the Government, instead of adopting the policy of preferring the depressed or backward class candidate to a candidate of the other classes provided all other things are equal, adopt the policy of appointing candidates of depressed and backward classes especially depressed provided they possessed the minimum educational qualifications. There is a grievance that Vellala and Balija communities are not given encouragement in the services at present and that they do not get any educational concessions. I would ask these people to wait for some time till the depressed and

[Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar] [15th March 1934]

backward classes come up to the level of the other communities. When the Depressed Classes have advanced sufficiently, then will be the time for us to tell them: 'Look at our condition; we have sacrificed for your sake and it is for you to see that we get sufficient representation now.' As we are responsible for their present position and for the 2,000 years of destructive work which checked their progress, we should submit ourselves to temporary difficulties till they come up to the level of the other communities.

"Now one word more with regard to the clerks of the Secretariat. They are all over-worked and I request the Government to give them a half-holiday on every Saturday in addition to the full holiday on the penultimate Saturday of each month. There is no use of working a man all through the week; his brain will deteriorate and his efficiency will be impaired. If you give him a half-holiday on every Saturday, perhaps he may go to the races or take to some other sports on Saturday, take complete rest on Sunday and return to the office on Monday quite fresh and invigorated for the week's work. I think he will be able to do much more, even double the work, in five and a half days than what he does now in six days. I also want that the clerks and officers should be compelled to take a month's leave every year. Otherwise what happens to these officers who work and work and work in order to please their superior? They get diabetes in their 40th year and die early. Of course our Finance Member may say: 'You have mentioned all these things; we have got so many problems to face; where is the money to come from for all these?' As regards that, I may say that I am not for increasing the prices of food-stuffs even by a pie. The prices are only at the pre-war level and we are far from the stage when rice was selling 16 measures a rupee. Therefore, I request the Hon. the Finance Member and the Hon. the Revenue Member to see that while the present people may be allowed to remain on the old scales of pay, the future entrants are given only 50 per cent of the present salaries. By adopting such a course, the new entrants will not be losing anything because they will be getting enough. The Government may also revise the salaries in such a way that the minimum will be Rs. 40 and the maximum Rs. 500, so far as the Provincial Service is concerned. As for the Members of the Cabinet and the High Court Judges, let the Government of India and the Secretary of State fix whatever salaries they think proper. As regards the European element in our services, if we want them here, we should pay them their present rates of pay and overseas and other allowances.

"I have said, Sir, that the clerks should not be overworked and that they should be asked to work only for five and a half days a week, so that they may have as much rest as possible. I wish you, also Mr. President, make us work only for five days a week and give us holidays on Saturdays and Sundays. We cannot bear the strain of the discussions and conversations here for six days a week and we very much want a holiday on Saturday also. Similarly also, I would ask the Government of India

15th March 1934] [Mr. C. Natesa Mudaliyar]

or whoever is the competent authority in the matter, to alter the rules of the High Court so that Wednesday also may be a holiday for the High Court Judges in addition to the Saturday and the Sunday, because in the case of the High Court Judges the strain on their brains is very great and adequate rest is necessary."

* Mr. G. R. PREMAYYA:—"Mr. President, Sir, this Demand needs a thorough examination. The district administration is getting from bad to worse. This will be explained by the facts which I am going to place before the House, because facts are facts and they cannot be denied. When Mr. Tampoe and Mr. Rutherford were in Guntur, they granted hundreds of acres to the Depressed Classes. They made personal visits to the places and labour colonies and co-operative societies were formed for the Depressed Classes. All that was done for the benefit of the people, especially the Depressed Classes. But the Collectors who came afterwards have completely spoiled the good work done by these eminent I.C.S. officers. Mr. Rutherford and Mr. Tampoe were looked upon as the emancipators of the Depressed Classes.

"When Messrs. Rutherford and Tampoe were in Guntur, they 11-30
granted lanka lands to the Depressed Classes. My hon. Friend, Mr. a.m.
Moses, the other day obtained the special permission of the Hon. the President to explain to the House fully well how these people were ill-treated. I am not going to reiterate the same. But I should like to point out the difficulty felt by the people. These lanka lands were granted to the Depressed Classes ten years ago. When the land was granted, it was full of wild weeds. The Hon. the Revenue Member must be very familiar with this matter as he was Collector of Godavari district. Weeds generally grow on the lanka lands and to clear one acre of land it will cost to the Depressed Class member Rs. 200. These Depressed Classes spent not only Rs. 200 to clear an acre of land but their time, energy and everything on it; all that they have already earned they spent on the removal of these wild weeds. They have been on the land for the last ten years. When the land has been brought to a condition fit for cultivation, the Government propose to sell this land in public auction. I said that our people are on the land for the last ten years. When the land is going to yield abundantly now, the Government come and say 'you cannot have this land; it must be sold in public auction because it is valuable land.' Our people made the land good, by clearing the land and making it fit for cultivation. I hope the Hon. the Revenue Member will take note of this point and give his sympathetic consideration to it.

"We have another difficulty, Sir. There is forest land to the extent of 2,000 acres in Palnad taluk of the Guntur district. This land had been handed over to a forest panchayat. Long before this land was assigned to the panchayat, there were Oddars living by quarrying. This quarry land is in one corner of the forest land. Two years after this land was given to the panchayat, these Oddars are asked to go out. Ten or fifteen days ago, my hon. Friend, Mr. Moses, and I went to this

[Mr. G. R. Premayya]

[15th March 1934]

place and had a long talk with the Tahsildar and the Deputy Collector; the matter is now under the consideration of the District Collector. I presume that this land is going to be granted to the panchayat for the use of cattle and the human beings who are living on the land by quarrying are going to be turned out. About 300 people are going to be turned out and the land is going to be given to cattle. If the Depressed Classes are treated worse than animals, where do they expect the justice from?

“ There is Ovveru forest in the Nellore district. Here also we have some difficulty. The lands in this forest were given to the Depressed Classes four or five years ago. They were asked to clear off the jungle on the promise that the land would be assigned to them. After prickly-pear and other shrubs are removed, the Government say you cannot have the land; it should be sold in public auction as it is valuable land.

“ In my speech some time back I explained fully well our difficulties in Romperu drain which is in Bapatla taluk, Guntur district. I simply referred to that difficulty and left it off; the Depressed Classes people are there for the last 60 years; they have been cultivating the land; and they have been enjoying the produce all these years. I cannot understand the reason why the Government are turning out these people. They are imposing heavy penalty and also selling the crop in auction. This is the state of affairs we are living under.

“ Now I wish to speak about karnams and village munsifs. They are suffering a lot under the present district administration. The allowance that was promised to them has been taken away. Now they are not given any allowance at all. These karnams and village munsifs are very poorly paid Government servants. In the discharge of their duties they have to go to the taluk headquarters miles away from their villages; they are put to much difficulty especially with the jamabandi work. They are required by the jamabandi officer to go to a place which is convenient to him for looking after the jamabandi work. These people are supposed to be there for about ten or eleven days, during which time they generally arrange meal for themselves. The arrangements they make for food is not only for the karnams and village munsifs but also for the jamabandi staff. The Collector of the district and the jamabandi officers know full well that the money that is going to be spent for this purpose, has to come from the ryots. The village officers extract money from the villagers for expenses connected with jamabandi. This arrangement is made by the revenue inspector. At all times this arrangement is looked after by revenue inspectors assisted by village officials; if anything goes wrong, a report is made against the revenue inspector and he is made the victim. It is an open secret; the Hon. the Revenue Member knows it full well; this thing has been going on for a very long time and it will continue for years unless the Hon. the Revenue Member takes a firm attitude and directs its stoppage. If this thing is allowed to go on unchecked, it will cause a lot of hardship to people.

15th March 1934]

[Mr. G. R. Premayya]

“ I wish to refer to one more matter before I conclude my speech: The vettis also are low-paid Government servants. They have a lot of difficulties and grievances. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Srinivasan, said some time ago, these people are voiceless. They have to carry out the business given to them by karnams and village munsifs. At least twice a week they have to carry tappals from their villages to the taluk headquarters or the district headquarters; they have to walk 30 or 40 miles a day for this purpose. These vettis are paid Rs. 6, Rs. 7 or Rs. 8 as the case may be. When they go to the taluk or district headquarters, they have to spend one or two rupees for their travelling expenses; if Rs. 2 is taken away from their salary of Rs. 8 only Rs. 6 remains. They find it difficult to manage with the balance of money.

“ Sir, I wish to bring another point to the notice of this House. Sunday is considered as a Government holiday. Our King Emperor is the defender of the Faith. When the Christian vettis are asked to go to distant places on Sundays, if they refuse, they will be seriously dealt with afterwards. If they are sent away on Sundays, they cannot offer their Sunday worship; our Muslim Members of the Legislative Council here wanted time to offer prayers and it was given; recently my friend wanted a place for worship and that was also given. So we must respect the feelings of the Christians also. If the vettis are forced to go to distant places on Sundays, it will be very hard. I sincerely request the Hon. the Revenue Member to give his sympathetic consideration to the suggestions I have made.”

* A. M. AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I should like to say a few words in connexion with the Services Commission. There are very many defects in the practical working of the statutory rules and orders issued for the guidance of the Services Commission. They have been elaborately dealt with at the time when the administration report of the Services Commission was considered and disposed of by this House. It is not my intention to traverse the same ground again. Therefore I wish to confine myself on this occasion only to one or two aspects which are important and bear repetition. In the first place, the general prescription of the age of 25 as qualifying for appointment to any posts in the service of Government works as a serious hardship in the case of minority communities, whose members have taken to modern education very late in the history of their community. It is no doubt true that for certain posts in certain departments a higher age-limit has been prescribed for Muslims and other backward communities, but this I submit is not of very great advantage to the Muslim community or other communities because the posts that fall vacant in such departments are so few and qualified Muslims are also fewer still that it is rarely that this concession is availed of. I would therefore urge that the age of 27, if not 28, should be prescribed for entry into all the departments generally in the case of Muslims and other minority communities and in technical departments of course, the age qualifying for appointment in the case of Muslims may be fixed at 30 and above as the

[Mr. A. M. Ahmed Meeran] [15th March 1934

requirements may make it necessary. In this connexion, I am also to point out that the fixing of the age-limit for Muslims and other minority communities at 27 for clerical posts in certain departments of Government for only a period of five years will not enable the Muslim candidates to derive any benefit therefrom. If the community has even to-day remained where it was, in spite of the last 100 years ceaseless efforts and endeavour to promote education, it is futile to expect that within the next five years the Muslim community and other minority communities would become universally educated and will be able to stand on a level with the other communities. It is therefore necessary that the rule granting this concession only for a period of five years should be modified and the higher age-limit of 27 should be in operation until such time as the community comes to its own in the matter of education. In the matter of recruitment to Veterinary Service, the age-limit prescribed appears to be 27 in the case of all communities. No special age-limit seems to have been prescribed to the backward communities of Muslims and other minorities. This works a serious handicap in the case of Muslims and other minorities. For there happen to be only one or two Muslim candidates admitted in the Veterinary College from year to year. Even these boys at the time of admission happen to be at the age of 24 or 25.

11-45
a.m.

"By the time they finish their five years' course in the college, they happen to be usually 29 or 30 years of age and according to the present age-limit they cease to be eligible for appointment. Such a state of affairs is what actually obtains in the case of Muslim Veterinary graduates and the result is that there are to-day only a handful of Muslims in Veterinary departments as such. It is therefore very necessary and desirable that the age-limit in the case of Muslim Veterinary graduates should be raised from 27 to at least 30. Hon. Members are aware that several Members had tabled a resolution urging upon the Government to raise the age-limit from 27 to 30. The resolution was balloted and was set down on the Agenda paper, but owing to want of time, the resolution could not be discussed and disposed of. It therefore behoves the Government to take early steps to give effect to the legitimate desire of this House and also redress a reasonable grievance of the Muslim community in particular.

"I hope the Hon. the Revenue Member will not hesitate to pay his kind attention to the suggestions I have made and do his best to comply with the request without delay."

* MR. M. DEVADASAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to speak on my cut motion, to discuss the general policy of the administration. The general administration of the Presidency hinges upon the permanent village officers, viz., the karnam and the village headman. They are hereditary officers in virtue of the Madras Hereditary Village Offices Act. Their hereditary tenure of office enables them to do whatever they like.

15th March 1934]

[Mr. M. Devadasan]

(At this stage the Deputy President took the Chair.)

“ Though the Government have got great regard for the village karnam and the headman, the people do not have the same amount of regard for them. The Government, I must say, seem to consider them as their milch cows; whereas the people treat them to be the demi-gods of the village who, if not propitiated by the villagers, would wreak vengeance upon the villagers by means, fair or foul. The vagaries of the village officers are too many. I shall refer to some of them. Since they are hereditary permanent officers, they are emboldened to do anything they like according to their predilections and prejudices. The village headman, invested as he is with powers of civil and criminal jurisdiction, exercises those powers to the disadvantage and detriment of the poor people. The village karnam and the headman consider their offices to be their birthright. The idea of hereditary offices may of course be repugnant to those who hold strong democratic views. I do not say that these offices should be abolished, but I say that there should be some restraint placed upon these officers. It is really strange that these officers should be kept in their offices from their cradle to the grave. Even when they take leave, they depute somebody to act for them in consideration of some money. In the case of the minors who cannot carry on their duties, arrangements are made on their behalf for the division of the pay between the acting men and the minors for whom they have been appointed to act. According to the rules of the Government, nobody can sell his office except on pain of being prosecuted under the law. The village officer is however at liberty to bargain and sell his office. Most of the civilians know that there is such a practice of bargaining going on in respect of these offices. The pay of the village officer might be Rs. 15 or so, but when a man acts for him he still continues to get a moiety of his pay; and unless the acting man makes some money in an underhand manner, he cannot eke out his livelihood, as it will be impossible for him to get on with the small pay that he is entitled to get in virtue of the agreement he has entered into with the permanent incumbent.

“ Another serious defect that I would refer to is the fact that the village karnam and the headman are kept in their offices in the same place practically for life. Government generally do not like the idea of keeping anybody in an office for all time, and they generally transfer officers from place to place once at least in two or three years, with a view to improve the administration. But in the case of the village officers, I do not know why they are allowed to continue in the same place for all time. In Trávancore, the village officers who are called ‘ Provarthikars ’ are transferred from place to place; but in our Province, village officers are kept in the same place till they retire from service. The fact that they are in the same place makes them side with one party or the other, should there be any faction in the village. We find that these officers are doing some mischief and further they foment troubles in the villages. For instance, when an inspection or survey is going on

[Mr. M. Devadasan]

[15th March 1934]

in the village, these officers manage to record Government nattam as private nattam belonging to some big landlord who may be their friend or relation. Most of these nattams happen to be the habitations of the depressed classes; and if the depressed classes do not abide by the wishes of the castemen or the landlords—I am really sorry I have to say all these things in plain language—the upshot is that suits are instituted in the civil courts for their ejection from the cheries. Even now there are several suits pending in the civil courts of the Tinnevely district for the eviction of the depressed class people from their habitations. Government used to acquire some land for housing the depressed classes, in the past, but that procedure seems to have been dropped now. Now, some of these habitations are claimed by the landlords as their private property, although they have no manner of right, title or interest in such lands. Even in the preparation of the list of heirs, on the death of pattadars, the village officer inserts the names of people who are not real heirs or legal representatives of deceased persons. If any heir does not propitiate the karnam while he prepares such a list, the names of other people who have no title to the property, are brought in. Thus, he creates room for endless litigation. These are the troubles, Sir, to which people are subjected at the hands of the village officers. I urge upon the attention of the Hon. the Revenue Member the necessity of transferring these village officers, if he cannot find it possible to abolish the permanent tenure of these offices.

“Turning now to the administration, in general, I must say that the revenue officials like the District Collector and Revenue Divisional Officers are losing their popularity and the good opinion of the people in the districts. According to the Board’s Standing Orders, the Revenue officials have to allot a certain day for the ryots to meet them in order to put forward their grievances. I ask the Hon. the Revenue Member whether this rule is adhered to by the officers in the districts. So far as Tinnevely is concerned, I must say that no day was set apart for enabling the ryots to meet the Revenue officials.

“Again, Sir, jamabandi which is an annual festival held by the officers, has become a source of trouble to the people. They post a number of cases on jamabandi days and make the parties wait indefinitely, sometimes even late in the night. Jamabandi itself is carried on sometimes very late at nights, causing great inconvenience and discomfort to the counsel, to the litigant public and to the general public. I ask the Hon. the Revenue Member to issue instructions to the officers holding jamabandi that in future on days when jamabandi is held, no criminal cases or other kind of work should be posted in the courts.

“As regards the question of relief to people who suffer damage by fire or flood, the officials are not prompt in giving such relief to them. I have put some interpellations on these matters, and the answers when ready will be placed before this House. I hope the Hon. the Revenue Member will find that the officials are very slack in coming to the aid of people who suffer damage on account of fire or flood.

15th March 1934]

[Mr. M. Devadasan]

“ Another important point that I wish to deal with is the participation of the village officers in the elections of the local bodies. Several village munsifs and karnams actively participate in these elections and dissipate their energies. Sometimes they go from place to place for conducting election propaganda and at other times they stand as candidates themselves and become members of taluk boards and district boards or other boards. I submit, Sir, that Government servants as a rule are not allowed to take part in any election and the village headman and karnam are also Government servants, because they carry on the duties of the Government and they receive their pay from the Government. Perhaps they have been exempted from the usual restrictions imposed on Government servants and are allowed to contest these elections. I would urge on the Government the fact that by allowing these village officers to participate in the elections, they are doing a great injustice to the people. The village headman and karnam cannot devote their entire attention to their work to which they have pledged themselves and for which they receive salaries from the Government.

“ My friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, referred to the Christian community as a homogeneous class; but it is not so. My hon. Friends, Rao Bahadur Pannirselvam, Daniel Thomas and others, will kindly excuse my saying that people call themselves Christians when they apply for posts, but as soon as they get into office they claim to belong to some particular caste. Of course, Mr. Pannirselvam might say that the caste system is ingrained in the social system of this country and that we cannot give up caste suddenly. (Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam: ‘I never said so.’) I only said the hon. Member might say so. (Laughter.) I am speaking about the Christians calling themselves Mudaliyar, Pillai, Nadar, Nayudu or Reddi as soon as they become officials, according to the communities they profess to belong. Though there is no caste system in Christianity, these people observe it. Such being the case, Christian officials who style themselves as mentioned above might as well be absorbed in the castes from which they embraced Christianity. But, so far as the Depressed Class Christians are concerned, they have no caste either before or after coming into Christianity. Before conversion, they were treated as a class of people having no caste. So, I plead that appointments reserved for Christians should be given to those who do not observe caste. After all the number of educated Depressed Class young men is very small, and I hope that the more enlightened classes will sacrifice their chances in favour of Christians who belong to the Depressed Classes. In this connexion, may I state that there is a feeling of discontentment among the educated young men of the Depressed Classes that their claims have not been properly attended to by the Government? And several meetings have been held and they have urged on the attention of the Government the need for taking a liberal view of their case in the matter of appointments. I confess that the Hon. Member has been very considerate and has extended the concession of entry into Government service till the 27th

12
noon

[Mr. M. Devadasan]

[15th March 1934]

year in the case of certain minority communities inclusive of the Christians belonging to the Depressed Classes. I am very thankful to him for this concession.

“ Though these concessions exist, men belonging to the community find it difficult to enter service. So many young men apply for such posts as Sub-Inspector of Police, Inspector of Excise, Sub-Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Sub-Registrar and Co-operative Inspector. But very few succeed in the selection. The reason is that they have no god-fathers to back them up. Of course, there is one Christian gentleman as a member of the Public Services Commission. I have no quarrel with either the Commissioner or that gentleman. But it is my humble submission that the claims of the young men belonging to the Depressed Classes Christian community have not been properly considered.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Sreshta, was saying yesterday in connexion with the debate on Reforms that the Government have nominated two Christians to represent the Depressed Classes in this Council. May I say that it is not because we happen to be Christians that we are here but because the Government thought that we would represent the Depressed Classes, at least as much as the members from the Depressed Classes themselves if not much better? I must however thank my friend for having included these two among Christians. For statistics we are reckoned as Christians. But I should say that Christians are exploiting the Depressed Class Christians just as the Hindus are exploiting the Hindu Depressed Classes. In the circumstances, I would appeal to the Hon. Member for Revenue that the Depressed Classes Christians should have the first claim on his attention. It is necessary for the orderly progress and the Constitutional advance of a country that all classes of people should be well treated. It was stated by Mr. M. C. Raja in the Legislative Assembly in connexion with the debate on the Temple-Entry Bill that the Depressed Classes Christians constituted 85 per cent of the Christian population. I have to submit that only a handful of men are now in service. As such, I request the Hon. Member to issue instructions that more men from the community should be appointed in Government service.”

* Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“ Mr. President, Sir, let me, first and foremost, offer my congratulations to the Local Government on the success they have achieved in persuading the Government of India to stop the dumping of rice, news of which we have had in the papers yesterday. Let me also take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the poor agriculturists of the Province to the Government of India for the promptitude with which they have given this help and stopped further import of rice into the country. Let me hope that this action on the part of the Government of India would indeed have the effect of relieving the distressed condition of the people at least to some little extent. I do not know if this order is in any way going to

15th March 1934] [Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

immediately raise the price of paddy. But I feel certain that it would at least have this effect, that it may not for the time being further reduce the prevailing price of paddy.

“ Next, Sir, I should like to say a few words about what the hon. Member for the City of Madras (Mr. V. T. Arasu) said regarding the Board of Revenue (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: ‘ The hon. Member for the whole Province ’) and the Madras Services Commission. With regard to the Board of Revenue, his suggestion was that it should be abolished. That is a matter about which Members of this Council have been expressing their views for the last 25 years. It has become a fashion to say that the Board of Revenue furnishes a mere fifth wheel to the administration of the Province, and that therefore, there is no point in retaining it any further. I have always wondered how many of those who have advocated the abolition of the Board of Revenue have really studied the question in all its implications and of the repercussions such abolition would have. We know that in some other provinces, there is no Board of Revenue; but we also know that in its place they have the Divisional Commissioners. I wonder if the advocates of the abolition of the Board of Revenue realize that by the abolition of the Board of Revenue which consists of three members, we would be driven to the necessity of creating a large number of Divisional Commissioners, who, on the whole, may cost this Province more than what the Board now does. Without further facts and figures and without knowing the reaction of the proposed abolition, I should not be able to support the hon. Member for the whole Province as Mr. Hameed Khan would have Mr. Arasu to be.

“ As regards the Madras Services Commission, I think it is absolutely necessary that this House should express its disapproval of the manner in which the hon. Member thought fit to attack the Services Commission. The Commission is an institution which is occupying almost a judicial position. It should be as sacrosanct as far as criticism goes as the High Court itself. In the interest of the proper and efficient administration of the Province, it seems to me that it should be the object of this House to see that the Madras Services Commission is a body which commands the respect not merely of the Government, not merely of the people in the services, but which commands the confidence and respect of all in the Province. But on this score, I do not say that the Services Commission should be above criticism; but before we venture to criticize, it seems to me that we should be absolutely certain of our case and have concrete instances where the Services Commission has gone wrong, and deliberately gone wrong. Even then, it will be more a matter for departmental enquiry by the Government rather than for ventilating grievances in a public body like this and ventilating them on the basis of stray instances—probably without a knowledge of the facts pertinent thereto; from such cases, we should not say that justice has not been done. The hon. Member has, I feel, treated the question in a light-hearted manner. He has not realized

[Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam] [15th March 1934]

that in the future Constitution the Commission is going to play a very important and indispensable part. It has been constituted with a view to relieve the heads of departments from the dangers concomitant to a system which enabled them to make appointments to suit their own particular fancies. I may confess that I have at times felt that to satisfy my own requirements it would have been better that the Services Commission was not there. People in the Legislative Council being naturally in a more advantageous position than the general public and as such able to approach this head of the department or the other for appointments for their nephews or sons-in-law, find these opportunities denied to them now, because the Services Commission does everything in accordance with the rules which it has prescribed for itself and which I am glad to say they have observed to the strictest letter so that it is not possible for any one to bring any sort of pressure to bear on its members.

12-15
p.m.

“ It seems to me, Sir, that the sooner this sort of criticism which was indulged in by my hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, is put an end to the better for everybody and I could only hope that this Council would certainly express, when an occasion arises, its disapproval of criticism of that type.

“ Turning now, Sir, to the question of communal representation in the services, a question which has been dealt with at considerable length by more than one hon. Member while on this motion, I may state that it is too late in the day for people to put forward the bogey of efficiency suffering by reason of communal representation. My hon. Friend, Diwan Bahadur Appadurai Pillai, found it necessary yesterday to preface his statement that he was for communal representation with the other, that of course efficiency was not to suffer at all. I may say, Sir, that I am an unrepentant and unabashed advocate of communal representation and I have no fears that efficiency will ever suffer by reason of enforcing communal representation. There was a day, not so long ago, when it seemed to be almost an article of faith with the Government and with some people that if the Treasury Bench—either in Reserved Half or the Transferred Half—was not occupied by a gentleman from the sacred community of Brahmans, the Madras Government would crumble. Well, Sir, a bold experiment has been tried for the last four years, the Treasury Bench of the Madras Government has been able to get on without a Brahman on it and get on very successfully, and get on in such a manner that we are going to have in the very near future the first Indian Governor drawn from the self-same Treasury Bench. I refer to it only to show that efficiency is not confined to any particular community and efficiency can be achieved by enforcing as strictly as possible the policy of communal representation.

“ Coming to the question of Christian representation, last evening my hon. Friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, gave us detailed figures and pointed out how even in enforcing the principle of communal representation, this third most important minority in the Province, has not

15th March 1934] [Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

been given fair-play. He pointed out how the Brahman community which numerically is inferior to the Christian community, how the Brahman community in which the literates in English are not very much higher than those in the Christian community, how that community has had a preponderating share in the offices, while the Christians come nowhere near them. He also made it a grievance and very legitimately so, that instead of the Christian being given two places in every rotation of twelve—for this is exactly the number given to the Brahman—I do not want in this connexion to drag in my Muslim friends for this reason that they are twice our number, even though as far as literacy goes, they may not be very much below us—but comparing us with the Brahman community, why should that community which is numerically inferior to us and whose literacy is not far ahead of us, why should they be given two seats all to themselves, while the Christian is clubbed with the Anglo-Indians and Non-Asiatics? My hon. Friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, pointed out that the Anglo-Indians should not be identified with us. I am not prepared to go so far as that. Personally, I think that there will soon come a time when the Anglo-Indians will have to identify themselves almost wholly with the Indian Christian community and numerically their number being only 28,000. I should not be sorry if they merge themselves with us or are classed as one with us. But why insult the Indian Christian community by clubbing it with non-Asiatics? Why should we be put down on the same level as foreigners to this country? Are we not as much Indian as our Muslim friends, our Hindu and Brahman friends? Of course, I am not prepared to endorse the statement of my hon. Friend, Mr. Appadurai Pillai, 'I am an Indian first and Christian next.' Sir, I am a Catholic first and because I am a Catholic, I am also an Indian to the same extent. Because my religion does not prevent my being an Indian and it seems to me that Government should certainly remove that stain from the Indian Christian community of being clubbed with the non-Asiatics. If they want to give a place for non-Asiatics, by all means give them a place quite apart and separate from the Indian Christian community, but let us be put exactly on the same footing as other communities, whether Hindu, Muslim or Brahman.

"Turning to my hon. Friend, Mr. Devadasan, I have no quarrel with him for the strain in which he spoke. I do not want for one moment to deny that the Christians who have been originally drawn from the Depressed Classes are economically and in many cases even socially, no better than the Hindu Depressed Classes themselves and it is not for the first time that I am acknowledging it on the floor of this House. Several times, myself and the other Christian representatives of this Council—I am talking of the elected representatives—have pleaded before the Government for the necessity for special consideration being shown, almost on equal terms with the Hindu Depressed Classes, to the Depressed Class Christians. I do not wish for a moment to deny the necessity for special treatment and personally speaking, I should be the last person to make—nor for that matter no other Christian would

[Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam] [15th March 1934]

make—it a grievance even if all the Christian seats and the appointments available are given to the Christians from the Depressed Classes. But I would only make a suggestion to Mr. Devadasan, that he is not going to benefit his own caste by antagonising the other Christian representatives here or the so-called caste Christians elsewhere. The spirit of caste among the Christians has certainly existed for a long time; but I must inform him that that spirit has been waning away and the largest amount of sympathy of the educated section of Christians is always available for the so-called Depressed Class Christians.

“Just one word, Sir, about the Secretariat in which the Christian community has not been given its legitimate share. As I said once before, no important place in the Secretariat is being held by an Indian Christian; none of the Assistant Secretaries, none of the Deputy Secretaries and of course none of the Secretaries are Indian Christians, but I may be told as my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, said the other day, ‘What grievances could the Indian Christians have, when all the Secretaries, Indian Civil Service officers who are Europeans, are Christians?’ That was, I believe, the argument which my hon. Friend, Mr. Basheer Ahmed, advanced the other day when he said that the Indian Christians have their cause championed by the European Christians who are at the head, and so the Indian Christians would have no need for any grievance at all. With due respect, and meaning no offence at all to any of the European Christians, may I say, Sir, that from the point of view from which we advocate the cause of the Christian community here, whether it be in the matter of services or in the matter of representation in the Council or in the matter of the social and political amelioration of the Indian Christian community, that we do not consider them Christians at all, but they are here as European officials and they have no concern about the interests of this particular community as against that of another. If we come in for any special treatment at all at their hands, it is for the purpose of being completely ignored, ignored because we are not as vociferous as my Muslim friends or as powerful numerically as my Hindu brethren. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: ‘Not to-day.’) Therefore, Sir, I believe we are perfectly justified in claiming *vis a vis* the Hindus and *vis a vis* the Muslims, proportionate, proper and adequate representation for the Indian Christian community even in the Secretariat.

“Let me say a word about the hardship which the shorthand-typists are put to by reason of the periodical examinations which they have to undergo if they are to continue to earn the special allowances. It seems to me, Sir, that examinations, however easy they might be to pass, are an unwelcome institution. They might have been necessary evils in your younger days, but as you grow older, aversion to examinations becomes more and more deep-rooted and it seems to me to be a real hardship that these clerks who have put in a continuous service and who have been in the work of taking down shorthand notes and transcribing them, should be put to the necessity of sitting for a special examination

15th March 1934] [Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam]

periodically, if they are to continue to receive their allowances. I mean, they are mostly persons or clerks who work directly under responsible officers and, if their efficiency by any means suffers, it would be certainly open to the officer under whom he works to tell him off and say that he is no more a shorthand-writer and that he cannot do that work and then put him on to the regular line. When there is that very effective check and when the officer under whom he works can day after day check the efficiency of the stenographer, where is the necessity for asking them—some of them probably in their forties and fifties—to undergo the ordeal of an examination? It seems to me that this is a grievance which can be very rightly removed.

“In conclusion, Sir, I once again plead that the Indian Christian community, considering its importance numerically and what is more important, the contribution that that community has made towards the welfare and progress of the Province, especially in the educational field, should be entitled to special consideration and special treatment.”

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, if I now speak on this Demand, it is to urge upon the Government that early steps should be taken for giving proper and adequate representation to the backward Hindu communities. Sir, it may be said that in these days it is not quite proper to make special pleading for representation of particular communities. No doubt, I am inclined to agree with that contention, but if you take facts as they are, the position is that Government have recognized the principle that representation should be given to particular communities whether in the matter of services or in the matter of reserving seats in the Councils and local bodies. Government having recognized the principle of giving special representation to the minority and other communities and taking things as they are, there is no going behind the fact that at least for some time to come communities which are backward have to be given some special representation. If I say special representation, I do not mean that they should be given any undue favour or anything of that sort. Their claims should be considered justly having regard to their population 12-30 and other qualifications also. It will not even come in conflict with p.m. the so-called theory of efficiency. I do not want particular communities should be given places at the expense of efficiency. Let the principle of efficiency also have full play. But their just claims should not be denied owing to some arrangements which have now become old and quite useless under the present conditions. Sir, before I proceed further, I will give an idea of what the backward classes are. The backward classes in the Hindu community are quite different from the Depressed Class communities. They have recognized the introduction of an arrangement to give appointments in a certain order. Their population, I think, Sir, is about 6 millions in this Presidency. The backward Hindu communities include about 97 communities with a population ranging from about 2,000 to even 30 lakhs in a single community. Taking my own community, the Vannya community, they

[Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar] [15th March 1934]

number about 30 lakhs of people. That is about double the population of the Brahman community and nearly equal to or a little more than the whole population of Muslims in the Madras Province. We tried, Sir, by waiting on His Excellency the Governor, not the present Governor, but the previous Governor, to urge upon him that some steps should be taken to evolve a scheme by which this community should be given special representation in the services. It was pointed out by His Excellency that it would be rather difficult to give special representation to each and every community. The fact that ours was a large community of about 30 lakhs and it would be desirable to give them special representation was admitted. But it was said that if representation is provided on that basis, there would be so many other communities coming forward claiming special representation and it would be difficult to arrange to give representation for every one of the communities. There was force in that contention and therefore we looked about to make a concrete suggestion by which it will be possible for the Government to give special consideration to these backward classes as a whole. Taking the educational grant-in-aid code—where the names of communities which are treated backward on the basis of education—there are 97 communities. We thought that all these communities might be grouped together and classified for the purpose of Government service as a separate group. No doubt, Sir, it is not possible that each and every community in that group can have scope for appointments in service. But we have to give and take. It does not matter so long as any one community in that group gets a place or office because that is the only practical way of solving the problem of backward communities. I understand, Sir, in the Bombay Presidency, there is special representation for backward Hindu communities and there is a backward class advisory board for which representatives are taken from the Legislative Council and from other bodies and which advises the Government in the matter of appointments to Government service. Now, here the Government get over the preponderance of certain communities by means of the present communal order by which they have allotted a certain number of places to each community. For Brahmans they have given two places; for Muhammadans 2 places; for non-Brahman Hindus as a whole 5 places; for the Depressed Classes 1 seat; for Christians 1 seat, and probably 1 place for Anglo-Indians and Europeans. So far as Muhammadans, Christians and Brahmans are concerned, there is no difficulty. But the difficulty comes with regard to the group called the non-Brahman Hindus. Five places are given to the non-Brahman Hindus. In that group it is only the advanced communities that are getting the appointments. So if that group gets the appointments, the Government are satisfied that the non-Brahman communities are provided. But they are mistaken. Since the appointments as a matter of fact go to the advanced communities among the non-Brahmans, the bulk of the non-Brahman communities, namely, the backward classes are not at all represented. The population of the backward Hindu communities is about 17 millions, i.e., about more

15th March 1934] [Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar]

than one-third of the population of the Province. These 17 millions practically go unrepresented in the matter of Government service. So I would urge the Government that it is now time to devise a scheme for providing places for those backward communities. If Government is willing to give a separate additional group called the backward classes, well and good. But, if they think these communal groups are being multiplied, I would request the Government that they be pleased to abolish the existing two groups, namely, the Brahmans and non-Brahman Hindus and call one the backward class group and the other as non-backward. Thus a separate group for the backward Hindu communities is created. Since the Brahmans are well advanced and well represented in the services, and since the advanced non-Brahman communities are also well represented, there is no special need to give special representation to advanced non-Brahmans and Brahmans. It is due to the non-Brahman movement that this Brahman, non-Brahman classification was recognized and now followed by the Government. Now, what I wish to submit is that scheme has outlived its purpose. It has achieved what was desired by the promoters of the non-Brahman movement. It is now time for Government to think that other schemes are provided by which the backward Hindu communities are properly represented; and the only way of encouraging them is to provide a separate classification for them. Sir, with regard to this, I want to give comparative figures of the population of different communities to justify my claim for a separate backward class group. The Muhammadans—I have no grievance against them—have a population of 3 millions in this Province, and they get 2 seats, out of 12. The Brahmans who are $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions are given two places and taking their population, their representation is more than adequate. But, to the non-Brahman communities which form the bulk of the population only 5 seats are given which is very low. Even among the five, most if not all are secured by the advanced communities among the non-Brahmans and the other communities called the backward classes forming about 17 millions, i.e., more than one-third of the population go practically unrepresented. I believe, Sir, my hon. Friend, the Member for Labour, Mr. C. Basu Dev, waited in deputation on the Hon. the Revenue Member and stressed on this point. More details were asked for. This is the situation of the backward classes (Hindus) and when we agitate for this, is there no substantial ground and justification for it? It is on behalf of more than one-third of the population of this Province that we plead and they deserve consideration by the Government and the latter should at once try to change the manner in which the appointments are reserved for certain communities. In this connexion, Sir, I may also point out that the present scheme by which half-fee concession is given to backward communities should also be revised, because it was framed long ago when many communities were not advanced. Among those communities, now there are many who have considerably advanced. It now entails a large expenditure on the part of the Government on account of this backward class concession. The result is, the rule is now enforced very strictly.

[Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar] [15th March 1934]

Therefore I request the Government to revise the backward class list and see that communities, which are really backward at present should be in the list and those who are advanced should be removed from the list so as to afford greater facilities to the really backward people."

Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM PANTULU :—" I am highly thankful to you, Sir, for having just called me at a psychological moment when the poor Brahman is being hit hard by the two previous speakers. But I am only sorry that I have not got the gift of the gab to answer them in a suitable manner. I may at once state here that we are not here to fight about the intellectual superiority of any particular community. I know that intellect is not the monopoly of any particular community. The hon. Member from Tanjore, Mr. Pannirselvam, had the courtesy to say that the Government is able to get on without a Brahman in the Cabinet. It is not for him to judge. Place any man you please, and he will get on. We know what the feeling outside is about it. It is not for him to say or for me to say that the Government is able to get on without a Brahman. I sympathize with him when he fights for equality of rights. The Indian Christians forget that their elevation is due to missionaries. Otherwise, he will not be in a position to say this. We the Hindus are also responsible for their elevation to a very great extent. We have suffered so much on account of their elevation because it interferes with the interests of other classes considerably. The village communities also suffer a great deal. Many of them (Christians) are fighting for appointments everywhere, in the Mission schools and colleges, and they are being appointed, even ousting experienced Hindus. Well, what about the poor Brahman who has sold away all his properties for purposes of education and who has served the Government so long loyally for centuries together? Is it an argument to be advanced that the prevalence of the preponderance is due to Government? It is a wonder to me why the Brahman should submit himself to criticisms. I am not trying here to criticize my hon. Friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, who is a personal friend of mine, but I am only sorry that he should have made such a reference on the floor of this House. Coming to the subject proper, namely, the communal Government Order, we have heard it said on all sides that the communal Government Order is a Government Order which is unworkable in a Province like this where there are many communities and sub-communities. I do not like to go into the genesis of the whole question. Mr. Manikkavelu Nayakar has given out the clue. It is the non-Brahmans that fought for this communal Government Order. Probably now they are disappointed with the results and are trying to influence the Government, by their agitation, to alter it. Whatever it may be, one who wants to please all, pleases none in the end. The Brahman is hard hit and the Hindu non-Brahmans, not proportionately served and the Muslims, the Indian Christians and the Adi-Andhras have not been adequately served. This is the wonderful result of the working of this Government Order for the last five or six years. Therefore I wish to urge upon this Government the abrogation of this Government Order.

15th March 1934] [Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu]

If this is done, there will be no more criticisms and it will satisfy all sections of the House. The policy of survival of the fittest is the only sound policy that should be followed by the Government hereafter. In those days when the appointing authority had unfettered freedom to make the appointments, the authorities were only anxious to maintain the highest level of efficiency. Sir, whether there is efficiency or not in the various departments as a result of the various communal Government Orders, it is for the administrators and the Executive Councillors to say. They know the extent to which deterioration has set in. They know the position better than others. But to me it seems that it is always better to give absolute freedom to the appointing authority. When there is a vacancy, let him (appointing authority) call for applications, examine the applicants and select the most competent among them irrespective of caste or creed. Instead of doing this, to vest this power in an outside body is only to expose our mutual distrust. We do not believe our Ministers and our Executive Council Members; we put our trust, on the other hand, in an alien institution like the Public Services Commission. I heard my hon. Friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, laying stress on the sanctity of this institution and praising its activities. Well, Sir, I have got concrete instances to show that they have tried to boss over the Executive Councillors and say that the Executive Councillors did not act according to their advice. It is this body which my hon. Friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, had the audacity to raise to the status of the High Court of Judicature. There are three people, there, Sir—three superannuated gentlemen (laughter) sitting there without any real responsibility for administration of this Province. In one case they recommended punishment for an officer for some fault while in another case they stated that though it deserved punishment, they do not want to award any punishment. Is that justice, Sir? Is this the body that should be considered as a tribunal to sit in judgment over the Executive Councillors and others, Indian Civil Service officers with ripe experience in the districts? Why should this body hold examinations of candidates who have passed several Government examinations? I do not call them irresponsible, but it is a fact that the three gentlemen composing this body have nothing to do with the administration of the Province. I dare say that no useful purpose is served by retaining this institution. It is, besides being superfluous, a huge white elephant. The functions that it performs are not really worth mentioning. They hold examinations, as I said. Why should examinations be held at all? If a vacancy occurs, why not appoint a man for routine work and give him training? For ministerial work, of what use is it to have a knowledge of fisheries? But it is this sort of questions that one finds in the examination papers prepared by the Commission. If an examination is at all considered necessary, why should not the concerned department hold it?

“ Then, Sir, it is said that nobody should say a word about the term of office of the Secretary of this Commission. It seems that he should be there for ever. Even in the case of the Indian Civil Service Secretaries

[Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu] [15th March 1934]

to Government, the term is fixed. In the whole history of British Administration you cannot find another case of this kind where absolute power is given to an institution to retain its Secretary permanently. If this can be allowed, let the Secretaries to Government in the Departments also be continued in the Secretariat for longer periods. As I was saying, this body calls for applications, collects moneys and holds worthless examinations. They do no good to the public service. I am against the holding of such examinations; but if any examination is considered necessary at all, I can understand questions being asked about the method of arranging a paper, preparing an office-note or giving a disposal to a communication. But what is the good of asking questions about the kinds of fish that are available in the Atlantic Ocean? Supposing a candidate does not know this, is he to be considered unfit for ministerial work? For conducting examinations of this kind a body such as this which is only creating distrust is not at all necessary.

“ I have to refer to two or three points more. The Government have framed a rule fixing the age at 45 for Deputy Collectors. It is anomalous that the communal Government Order has been made applicable also to persons who have been long in service. This rule is barring the claims of many deserving claims of officers belonging to all the communities. I would request the Hon. Member either to cancel it or make it not applicable to persons who entered service prior to the date of the rule. I do not know the purpose of this rule, but as it is, it will deny promotions to many deserving officers, I would request the Hon. Member at least to explain the object of it. Several interpellations were put in this Council in respect of this matter and no satisfactory answer was given to any one of them. I therefore take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Revenue Member the disastrous results of this rule and request him to remedy this evil. Another anomaly I wish to mention lies in allowing the Revenue Board, with the connivance of the Government to exercise their discretion in fixing the age-limit for deputy tahsildars and tahsildars at 40 and 45 years respectively. When I had occasion to interview the Hon. the Revenue Member in this connexion he said that there was no such statutory rule. Now I ask why, even in the absence of a statutory rule to that effect, the Board of Revenue should be allowed to exercise their discretion in this direction and reduce the number. Is it in this case, again, a policy of elimination, Sir? There is no purpose in introducing such a rule and inconveniencing people who by mistake entered Government service in the past. Of course I can understand if this rule is to be applied to men entering service in their 25th year. Such men after a service of 15 years, on account of this rule, if they are not able to get promotions to these posts, might have to retire as upper division clerks. But the case of a recruit is different from that of persons already in service. It is a real hardship and it has to be removed.

“ Sir, now I must refer to one or two cases in which exemption was refused by the Services Commission. There are two Government Orders

15th March 1934] [Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu]

governing this question. One of these has laid down that persons who have put in one year's continuous service or two years' active service in the aggregate prior to 1st January 1931 are to be exempted from the necessity of appearing for the examinations held by the Public Services Commission. In the case of a clerk who has put in a service of one year and eleven and odd months—a few days short of two years—and who subsequently had eight months' continuous service in addition, in a Collector's office, exemption was refused because of this Government Order. The other Government Order I have referred to says that persons who exceeded 25 years on 1st April 1931, whatever may be the length of their acting service, need not sit for the examination held by the Commission. It should be noted in this connexion that the Services Commission held the first of their examinations in the month of March 1931. Are not the persons I have spoken of entitled to the benefit of the latest Government Order on the subject? This is another question that should be looked into by the Hon. Member.

“ Now I will briefly refer to the Village Officers' Act. In the course of this debate, most of our Friends have referred to the village officers and their hardships. Sir, my relation with the village officers is more intimate. I had the honour of presiding over many district associations of village officers and on several occasions their grievances were brought to my notice. I had also an interview with the First Member of the Board of Revenue and I placed before him their grievances. Sir, under section 10 (4) of Act III of 1895, if a village officer is dismissed by the Collector, no enquiry is provided and the appointment is kept vacant till the man dies. It is really very hard and it deserves some modification. The office of the assistant munsif is treated as non-hereditary in certain districts although the same kind of responsible work as the casba munsif's is done by them. After the revision some assistant karnams were also treated as hereditary office holders, whereas the others were not so treated. I request that all these office holders may be treated alike and brought under Act III of 1895.

“ With regard to village inams, the inam-holders were rendering service to the village communities by doing service as barbers, washermen and so on. Under the Act there is no effective control over these people except what is provided in Board's Standing Order No. 157. There is a lot of litigation about these service inams in summary suits. The High Court once decided that these inam-holders had power to alienate their property and the alienation was valid so long as the inamdar is alive and continues to render service and then there was another decision contrary to it. In this state of affairs it would be very helpful if these cases are provided for in the Statute itself.

“ As regards the jamabandi allowance given to the village officers which has now been stopped, I would plead with the Hon. Member to restore it. With regard to the planting of subdivision stones they were

[Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu] [15th March 1934]

getting some kind of allowance. That has also been stopped now. I request the Hon. Member to consider this point.

“Only one point, Sir, and I am done. Interpellations were asked in this Council bringing to notice the paucity of Andhras in the Secretariat and other offices in the city. In reply to a question put by me on 24th February 1934 the Hon. the Revenue Member furnished a statement which showed that out of thirteen superintendents in the Board of Revenue and ten superintendents in the Chief Engineer's office, not even a single person is an Andhra. Again, out of a total fifty superintendents in the Secretariat only two are Andhras. Even that strictly speaking is not substantially correct. To my knowledge there is only one Andhra superintendent in the whole of the Secretariat. Even in the case of upper division clerks the representation is very poor. The attention of the Hon. the Revenue Member was drawn year after year to the poor representation both in the Secretariat as well as the mufassal offices but nothing has been done. As regards the Andhra gazetted officers, the number is again poor. I hope, Sir, that the Hon. the Revenue Member not only makes promises that he would look into those cases carefully but will also translate his promises into action. I request the Hon. the Revenue Member to remedy this state of affairs almost immediately.”

* Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—“Sir, the discussion on this demand has taken a very lively turn and very interesting questions have been raised. With regard to the question that has been raised about Revenue Board, I quite agree with my hon. Friend, Mr. Pannirselvam, that the Board of Revenue must be retained. I do not know whether it is possible to carry on the work without the Board of Revenue. In Upper India you have got Commissioners. Such appointments do not exist here. If the Board of Revenue is abolished, we should have Commissioners to look after their work. I think that such an arrangement would cost more than the Board of Revenue. The only question, therefore, is whether the number of Members of the Board of Revenue cannot be reduced by a system of delegation of duties and by the system of abolishing overlapping of work. A good deal of powers now exercised by the Collectors can be delegated to the Revenue Divisional Officers and in that way the work of the Collectors can be reduced very much. The Collectors in turn can be invested with powers of disposing of many matters which are referred to the Board of Revenue. If this is done the number of Members of the Board of Revenue may be reduced. But I do not think that any case has been made out for abolishing the Board of Revenue.”

“The next question is the communal ratio. I do not say that communal representation is a very good thing but as the lesser of two evils, I think it must be continued. The time has not yet come when we can give up that principle. I would make a suggestion to mitigate the so-called evil of communal ratio. Why should we not have reservation for backward and small communities saying that so many appointments should be reserved for non-Brahmans, so many for Muhammadans, so many for the depressed classes and so many for the Indian Christians.

15th March 1934]

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

The minimum may be fixed but not the maximum, so that the minimum may be less than the present ratio. The more advanced communities may come by competition. The objection to communal representation is that it tends to inefficiency. I think, therefore, that a system of reservation would meet the difficulties in either direction. By fixing a certain minimum backward and small communities are provided for; and members of such communities have an incentive by exerting themselves to qualify themselves for a larger number of appointments. Within the limited time at my disposal I am not able to elaborate on this point.

“Then with regard to the Madras Services Commission, I would have thought that it was too late in the day to suggest that the Madras Services Commission does not fulfil the purpose for which it was appointed. I am surprised that Mr. Arasu who is a democrat of democrats should have said that the Madras Services Commission has not been doing its work properly and that therefore there is no necessity for its continuance. It is not possible to carry on a democratic Government without such a Commission. Otherwise all the appointments would go into the hands of the party in power. It is not desirable that a party in power should have anything to do with the appointments. I may say that I may be informed by the Hon. the Revenue Member—I trust I am not mistaken—that a Cabinet Minister who came here from England said that he did not know who all were his subordinates and had nothing to do with their appointments. That is the correct practice to follow and any Cabinet Minister or Government Member should have nothing to do with his subordinates. They should entirely get rid of the system of patronage. Even in England this system of patronage led to so many evils in the past and the Public Services Commission was appointed. In America also recently a Commission sat and that Commission copied the English system. I believe the system of patronage in America is very much reduced now. I think it is too late in the day now to suggest that the Madras Services Commission should be interfered with in any way. The system of holding competitive examination for making appointments to services was very seriously considered in England and this is what Mr. Gladstone says—

‘The principle of open competition was again defended by Mr. Gladstone, who combated the view that patronage contributes to the strength of the executive Government and declared his belief that it was “not in the wit of man to devise a plan for the promotion of education so effective and powerful as the throwing open of the Civil Service. . . .”’

“Mr. Gladstone has also stated somewhere that every appointment given on the basis of the results of competitive examination would give a great incentive to education. Just as scholarships are a great incentive to the promotion of education, the possibility of getting good appointment would be a great incentive to education. Another argument put forward by an hon. Member was that these examinations should not require a knowledge of subjects like geography, because that is not the knowledge which is required in the service for which the candidate is

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

[15th March 1934]

required. Sir, this argument is not a new one. It was raised and met long ago. This is what Macaulay says—

‘Why should we put boys out of their way? Why should we force a lad who would much rather fly a kite or trundle a hoop to learn his Latin grammar? Why should we keep a young man to his Thucydides or his Laplace when he would be much rather shooting. Education would be a mere useless torture if at two or three and twenty a man who has neglected his studies were exactly on a par with a man who has applied himself to them exactly as likely to perform all the offices of public life with credit to himself and with advantage to society.’

“Sir, knowledge of geography or geometry is very useful to develop the intellect of man and surely a man who has been educated in these matters would, other things being equal, be better in the service than a person who has not got that knowledge. I would personally insist that this system of competitive examination should be extended as much as possible. I have pointed out more than once on the floor of this House that certain appointments are not filled up by the system of competitive examinations, but as a result of interviews with the candidates. The latter system is not desirable. It must be remembered that this latter system brings so much discredit to the Madras Services Commission. I think the Madras Services Commission is absolutely beyond any criticism with regard to their activities. There are thousands of applications and only one man gets the job. Naturally the others will feel aggrieved and say that the Commission is not acting properly and so on. I myself happened to be a member on the Board of Selection once and I used to receive letters from several candidates. One of them once asked me on what grounds he was not considered fit. Therefore I feel that wherever possible the system of competitive examination should be introduced. If certain physical and other qualifications, etc., are required in appointments such as those of Sub-Inspector of Police, Junior Inspectors of Co-operative Societies and Reserve Sub-Registrars, the candidates may first undergo the combined competitive examination for a number of services and a few appointments at the top may be reserved for such services. If the candidates possess the qualifications required for the particular departments, they can be selected. This system will remove a great deal of complaint which is now made against the Madras Services Commission. If the system I have suggested is followed even those who are not successful will feel that the best men have been selected. They will feel that they have been unlucky.

“As regards competitive examination, I wish to point out another thing. A large number of people going for degrees such as B.A., B.L., or M.A., M.L., think that they can improve their chances of securing appointments. So if it is made clear that all the appointments are to be filled by means of competitive examinations and if the qualification fixed for such examinations is S.S.L.C. or Intermediate examination, very few will study for the higher degrees except for the sake of culture or research. A considerable wastage of expenditure on higher education can be saved. The percentage of men going in for higher education is

15th March 1934]

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

very large now. A large amount of the tax-payers' money is now wasted by the Government on higher education. We cannot resist the desire of people going up for higher education because they think that if they pass higher examinations, they will get higher appointments. I hope the Hon. the Revenue Member who is in charge of this department will fully consider this question and see whether it is not possible to extend the system of examination to all possible services.

“ Now I come to two small questions. One is with regard to short-hand writers. It seems to be very hard that a man who has got into service rightly or wrongly should be asked every two or three years to submit himself to an examination. I have been asking for competitive examinations. But on that account to hold examinations every two or three years to test a man's capacity is carrying the system of examination too much. Supposing a Member of the Indian Civil Service is asked to pass an examination periodically, will he be able to pass it easily? I think that the Government should abandon this ¹⁻¹⁵ system of asking people to pass periodical examinations. For after a p.m. certain number of years, one cannot type as fast as he was typing when he entered service. I may point out the case of signallers in the Postal department. There they have got to show a certain amount of speed when they enter service, but they are not asked to sit for periodical examinations except once and at that examination also they are not expected to show the same speed which they showed when they entered service. Similarly here also the same sort of humane consideration should be applied, and I hope that the Hon. the Revenue Member who is very sympathetic would carefully consider the matter and see that justice is done to this class of employees.

“ The last question is about a certain class of officers in the Secretariat. At present there are certain rules governing the promotion of clerks from the lower division to the upper division. If a clerk gets into the upper division direct and acts there, he gets his usual increments till he is confirmed when there is a vacancy. There is no question of probation for them at present. In the case of men recruited by the Madras Services Commission, they have to put in a period of one year's probation at present. Now, under the new rule which is under consideration, for all these people whether they have been recruited by the Madras Services Commission or whether they are promoted from the lower division, a probationary period of two years is prescribed. In the case of the Madras Services Commission recruits however, there is a provision which protects them. Such men as have already been recruited need not undergo two years' probation and they will be governed by the old rule. But as regards men promoted from the lower division to the upper division, such a protection has not been afforded and they come under the rule of 2 years' probation; although they entered service at a time when no probation was necessary. I think it would cause hardship if in the new rule protection to old entrants is

[Mr. M. S. Sreshta]

[15th March 1934]

not given. I hope that the Hon. the Revenue Member, whose attention has not perhaps been drawn to this matter, will carefully consider this point and see that justice is done to these men."

* The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am very thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to express my views on the floor of this House. I have been carefully and patiently listening to the speeches of my hon. Friends and I think it is my duty to express my personal views on some of the points raised in the debate.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, pleaded for adequate representation of the backward classes in the Secretariat and I have great pleasure in giving him my full sympathy and support. Then, Sir, coming to the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari, he in his usual manner started abusing the District Officers and said that District Officers during their tours paid only annas 2 for a fowl. I am really surprised that an hon. Member of this House should make such a statement. I know of many District Officers who when they go on tours readily pay their expenses to the full."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"As a personal explanation, I wish to challenge the hon. Member to say whether it is not a fact that really District Officers are paying only annas 2 or annas 4 for a fowl."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"This is not a personal explanation and I do not think that challenges are allowed in this House."

* The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM:—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend has challenged me and I am prepared to take the challenge if he really means it. I have known many District Officers who tour in the districts more for the good of the people than for making money out of. It is really surprising that the hon. Member should have made a statement of that kind and should further challenge me when I said that his statement was absolutely incorrect. I have known more officers of the districts than my hon. Friend, Mr. Choudari. (Interruption.) I have known villages too, more villages than my hon. Friend in the Opposition. Anyhow I leave the matter there and I do not want to pursue it any further.

"I come now to the speech of my hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu. Of course, he has in his usual manner criticized everyone in this world. And I will not be surprised if he criticizes himself. He says that the power of selecting candidates should be given to the heads of departments and that the Services Commission should be completely scrapped. Of course, if the Services Commission is scrapped, he would turn round and say that the heads of departments would be influenced by the members of the Party in Power with the result that appointments are given only to people belonging to the Party in Power. I think, Sir, it has become a very common thing, it has become the fashion nowadays, to criticize people."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Is it in order for the hon. Member to anticipate what I would say on a future occasion?"

15th March 1934]

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not exactly understand the hon. Member's point."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"The hon. Member said that, if a certain thing was done, I would say this and that. I want to know whether it is in order for him to say so."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is quite open to him to anticipate arguments and reply to them."

* The ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM:—"Sir, I honestly feel that the Services Commission are doing a really useful service. Heads of departments have been considerably relieved of their responsibilities and saved from the criticism to which they would be subjected if the powers of selection were left in their hands. I do not mean to say that the heads of departments cannot exercise these powers properly if they are left to them. What I mean to say is that the present procedure is the proper one and that it spares the heads of departments from public criticism as the selections are made by the Services Commission. Of course, there will be many people who are disappointed, because we cannot expect the Services Commission to select every candidate who applies to them. As far as the personnel of the Commission is concerned, I must say they are perfect gentlemen with a record of long service and good experience behind them. It is unfair for hon. Members to criticize such gentlemen and say that they are not making the selections properly. I would therefore earnestly appeal to the Government to continue the Services Commission."

"I now come to the question of a cut in the salaries of Government servants. I heartily congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member for not imposing a cut in the salaries. My hon. Friend from Guntur stated that the departments are corrupt, but at the same time, he wants a cut in the salaries, perhaps to make the departments more corrupt. He has suggested that the Deputy Tahsildar's office at Addanki may be re-opened. When he is so anxious for economy, I cannot understand why he wants to re-open the Deputy Tahsildar's office, when he could very well get on with the Tahsildar who is now in charge. I strongly oppose any suggestion of imposing a cut in the salaries, for unless the officers are well-paid we cannot get any satisfactory service from them."

"With regard to the salaries of village officers, of course the present salaries are not enough and the Government may consider the advisability of giving them more. (Mr. Krishnayya Choudari: 'There you agree?') *Yes, I do."

"One word about the Andhra representation in the Secretariat. In this connexion, I do not want to criticize my Tamil friends, but I only request the Government to be pleased to take more and more Andhras in all departments and thus give them adequate representation in the Secretariat."

[15th March 1934]

III.—ALLOTMENT OF HALF A DAY TO DISCUSS A MOTION *re* EXCISE DUTY ON SUGAR AND MATCHES, AND ONE DAY FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE LAND MORTGAGE BANKS BILL BY CUTTING DOWN THE DAYS ALLOTTED FOR BUDGET DISCUSSION.

1-30
p.m.

* The Hon. Sir MAHOMED USMAN:—"Sir, Dr. Subbarayan has given notice of a motion under rule 24-A of the Legislative Council Rules regarding the excise duty on sugar and matches. It has been represented to the Hon. the President by Leaders of Parties that facilities should be given for the consideration of this motion and for the consideration of the Hon. Mr. Rajan's Land Mortgage Banks Bill and that the number of days allotted for the Voting of Demands for Grants might be cut down by $1\frac{1}{2}$ days for this purpose. The Hon. the President having no objection, His Excellency the Governor has, in deference to the wishes of the Leaders, agreed to cut down the number of days for Budget discussion by $1\frac{1}{2}$ days, and to allot half a day for the resolution of Dr. Subbarayan and one day for the consideration of the Hon. Mr. Rajan's Bill. The resolution will be taken up on Saturday morning and the Hon. Mr. Rajan's Bill on Monday morning."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1934-35.

DEMAND X—SECRETARIAT AND HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHMENTS,
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS—RESERVED.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The Demand has to be put to vote at 3 p.m."

* The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"Mr. President, Sir, I shall confine myself to the main points raised in the debate, as I fear it will not be possible to deal with all the points raised, as they cover a very wide field. One very important point touched upon by several Members is with regard to the proposal commonly known as the cut in salary; opinions on the subject are divided; as was rightly pointed out by one Member, such a cut is open to the danger that it may lead to an increase of corruption in the service. There is much to be said on the subject but as the matter was fully dealt with at the time of the general discussion of the Budget, I think I had better devote the short time at my disposal to other matters.

"The suggestion was made by Mr. Muniswami Pillai that the salaries of future entrants should be 50 per cent less than the salaries which present incumbents are now drawing. The question of reducing the rates of salary of future entrants has been very carefully considered by Government in consultation with the Retrenchment Committee, and we have made reductions in them, which will ultimately result in reducing the expenditure on salaries by 20.7 per cent in the case of gazetted officers, and 10.1 per cent in the case of non-gazetted officers. And I do not think any further reduction can be effected in the present circumstances.

15th March 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

“ Mr. Krishnayya Choudari referred to the cut in the salary of village officers. I don't think the salaries of those in service have been reduced. We have only revised the salary of future village officers. The pay of village menials has not been reduced. (Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari: ‘ I was referring as to why, in the case of some village officers, their salary was reduced from Rs. 15 to Rs. 13.’) That was done some years ago in connexion with the restoration of some village officers whose services were dispensed with some time previously; we had the consent of this House, that their restoration should not involve any extra expenditure and the pay had therefore to be reduced to Rs. 13.

“ A suggestion was made by Mr. Basu Dev that in all the Government offices there should be half-holiday on all Saturdays instead of a whole holiday on the penultimate Saturday. And Mr. Muniswami Pillai suggested that for the Secretariat there should be half-holiday on every Saturday in addition to the present penultimate Saturday, so that the clerks may go to the races. (Laughter.) If we adopt the suggestions of the hon. Members, the number of working hours will be reduced by one hour a week and either the clerks must stay in the office for longer hours on some other day or additional staff must be appointed for the disposal of work; the latter will involve additional expenditure to the Government. This suggestion was considered on a former occasion, some thirteen years ago, and it was finally abandoned. The reason was that on every Saturday the clerks would have to return home in the middle of the day in the hot sun; in the second place the daily tapals cannot generally be distributed to all the clerks concerned in time to dispose of such papers as may require immediate attention before 2 o'clock; and so generally some of the clerks would have to remain till later to deal with these papers; it was considered that the clerks would get more benefit by the grant of a full holiday on one Saturday in the month as they can then get a rest for two consecutive days. On the whole, I think, it is better to maintain the present arrangements.

“ The undesirability of holding periodical examinations for shorthand writers was raised. We have decided that there should be a periodical test for stenographers, who are drawing a special allowance in some form or another on account of their shorthand capacity. We have decided that they should have a triennial examination. The test is not a very severe test; they have to take down a passage at the rate of 100 words a minute for ten minutes. The test is made to see whether their proficiency is maintained, and each is still capable of carrying out the duties, for which he is drawing the special allowance. We have come across cases where persons were drawing this allowance, even though they were not actually doing any shorthand writing. I do not think anybody who is really doing this work every day in the office will find any difficulty in passing this test.

“ Mr. G. R. Premayya drew attention to certain grievances of the depressed classes and particularly to the grant of land in the Guntur

[Sir Archibald Campbell] [15th March 1934]

district and the action taken by the Collector subsequent to the grant. Secondly he referred to the resumption of lanka lands which had been cleared by the Depressed Classes. Thirdly he referred to certain forest land which had been cleared and occupied by Oddars in the Guntur district which has not been handed over to a forest panchayat. Fourthly he referred to certain forest land in the Nellore district; the undergrowth was cleared by the Depressed Classes on the understanding that they would be granted the land and would not be asked to pay its full value; but now it appears the land is to be sold in public auction. Fifthly, he referred to the prohibition of the cultivation of land within a six-furlong limit in the Romperu drain. I am not quite sure whether in the last case the land is patta land. (Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Chouduri: No, Sir, it is not patta land. I understand they are there for the last 60 years.) With regard to these matters I shall have inquiries made.

2-45
p.m.

“ The Board of Revenue, as usual, has been mentioned. Mr. Arasu proposed its abolition; Mr. Pannirselvam and Mr. Sreshta are opposed to its abolition. This matter has been threshed out at considerable length on former occasions, and has been discussed on special resolutions. I do not think I should take up the time of the House now by going into the details of the arguments advanced for and against the suggestion. Suffice it to say that the Board is serving a very useful purpose, and if it were abolished, more expensive machinery would have to be set up to do the work now done by the Board of Revenue. The Board of Revenue has to discharge very responsible duties; it acts as an appellate authority from the orders of Collectors, supervises the work of the Collectors and their subordinate officers and attends to a most important portion of the administration of the country. I am quite sure it will be a very great mistake to abolish the Board of Revenue.

“ It was suggested by Mr. Devadasan that village officers should be transferred from one place to another. I cannot see that any advantage will be obtained by the transfer of village officers. Their families have usually resided in the village for centuries; they generally possess land in the village; their interests are bound up with the welfare of the village. No doubt at times they take sides when there are factions in the village, but in such cases any abuse of their powers can be dealt with by the local revenue authorities. Mr. Devadasan also suggested that the office of the assistant munsifs and assistant karnams should be made hereditary by amending the Act of 1895. That Act did not make any new office hereditary. It applies to offices which were already hereditary. An Act of this Legislature would be necessary to carry out Mr. Devadasan's suggestion. I do not however think there is any necessity to make these minor offices hereditary where they are not hereditary now. Now we can select the best man whatever is the family to which he belongs.

15th March 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

“ It was also suggested that village officers should be supplied with stamps and that village tappal system should be abolished. If we send all the village tappals through the post, it would involve considerable expense. We must have a larger number of post offices as at present. There are very few post offices scattered in the villages. Further village menials will have to carry the tappals from the village to the nearest post office, but if we have to meet the extra expenditure on stamps, etc., it should be done by reducing the number of menials. I do not think, Sir, that that would be an advantage. The present system has worked very well for a great number of years and I think it need not be altered.

“ The payment of jamabandi allowances was sanctioned in 1920 on the recommendation of the Salaries Committee and it was abolished in the year 1926 to meet the cost of the restoration of village officers, but it has been continued in the case of village menials. I am afraid that, in view of the fact that it was abolished in order to provide for the restoration of certain village officers, we cannot go back on that decision now.

“ Complaint was made that mamuls were taken from village officers attending jamabandi. The House is no doubt aware that this matter can be dealt with by the local revenue authorities. Where mamuls are demanded, the village officers have only to report to the District Collector or the Revenue Divisional Officer and I am quite sure that it will be stopped within a short time. It may be said that village officers are afraid of what would happen if they made any complaint; if the people of the taluk combined together and refused to pay these mamuls, I am quite sure that they would be stopped.

“ My friend, Mr. Choudari, said that jamabandi should be held in every firka headquarters; that used to be the old custom; that was done in order that the jamabandi officer might get into close touch with the ryots in the villages. But it has been given up largely, I think, on account of agitation which has been voiced in this Council from time to time objecting to a large staff being quartered in a small village even for three or four days. It is now too late to revert to the old system.

“ Mr. Basu Dev put in a plea on behalf of village officers who had been dismissed on account of their participation in the Non-Co-operation Movement. He referred, I understand, to the Non-Co-operation Movement in the year 1921 and to the subsequent movement of the same nature. I believe, Sir, that, after the 1921 movement collapsed, several village officers, who made apologies for taking part in politics and promised to be of good behaviour in future were restored to their offices. But in certain cases it was found that it was not legally possible to restore them, for people had been appointed permanently in their places. I have to invite particular attention to the Act XIII of 1922 passed at that time which affects persons who were dismissed owing to

[Sir Archibald Campbell] [15th March 1934]

participation in a movement against the Government. If however any particular cases are brought to my notice, I shall be glad to have them examined.

“ Complaint was made regarding the supplies which are made to touring officers. It was suggested that touring officers should not ask for supplies when there are shops in the village, and that they should always pay for the proper value of the supplies made. We have issued very stringent orders on this subject and these are embodied in the Board's Standing Orders; I need not read the Standing Order on the subject in full, but it includes the following rules: all indents for supplies shall as far as possible, be in writing; the assistance of village officers should not be applied for when supplies can be obtained without it and all unnecessary demands on village officers shall be avoided; thus, in large towns, where there is a regular bazaar and provisions can be easily procured, it should generally be unnecessary to trouble the village headman; every touring officer must obtain receipted bills for supplies obtained through village officers and retain them for reference, if necessary, for a period of twelve months. He has personally to see that the village headman's bill has been paid in full before he leaves the village; no supplies except of articles made or sold locally shall be procured under these rules. I do not know whether we can do anything more than we have done; we have issued the necessary orders; it rests with the local officers to enforce these orders. I am quite sure if any case in which these orders are not carried out is taken to the notice of the Collector of the district, he will do his best to put down the abuse.

“ Reference was made to the participation of village officers in elections. We have recently considered the part which village officers may reasonably play in elections to this Council or to local boards, or to municipal councils, and we have passed an order to the effect that in this respect karnams should be treated as whole-time servants of the Government. We have directed that if a karnam wants to stand for any election or take part in politics, beyond recording his vote, he should resign his office first. That is exactly the same as any other Government servant has to do. As regards village headmen we have directed that they should take no part in politics beyond recording their votes, so long as they are actually in office and discharging their duties as headmen. If a village headman wishes to stand for any election, he should first apply for and obtain leave of absence or resign his office. If he obtains leave of absence and is elected to a legislative body he must continue on leave so long as he is a member of that body; if he is elected as a member of a local body, he will, if he so desires, be allowed to resume his duties as headman on the expiry of the period allowed for objections and, if any objection is raised to the election, after the case has been decided; but if he accepts office as president or vice-president of a district or taluk board or as chairman or vice-chairman of

15th March 1934] [Sir Archibald Campbell]

a municipal council, he must continue on leave or obtain leave, as the case may be, for so long as he holds any of these offices. There will be no objection to his discharging the duties of village headman while he is president or vice-president of the panchayat board of his own village."

MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" May I know whether the present village karnams are permitted to do these things? "

The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—" These rules will be applied in future. They were passed only in January of this year. I hope these orders will meet the objections raised with regard to village officers taking part in politics.

" I will turn to other matters. Suggestions were made that we should reduce the number of gazetted officers, especially Deputy Collectors. During the last two years we have reduced the number of gazetted officers—as is seen from the tables placed before the House—from 1,897 to 1,849. This matter has been very carefully considered in every department; I doubt whether further reduction can be made without interfering with the efficiency of the administration. It was suggested that we should reduce the number of Deputy Collectors by placing revenue divisions in charge of Indian Civil Service Officers; while that will reduce the number of Deputy Collectors, it will necessarily add to the cost of administration, because an Indian Civil Service Officer is more expensive than a Deputy Collector.

" Mr. Arasu suggested that the Madras Services Commission should be abolished and supported his case by quoting two instances in which the Government disagreed with the Madras Services Commission. My friend considered that the Government were right. I think we must accept the fact that there will be occasions when the Commission and the Government will not be able to see eye to eye. In those two cases we happened to differ, but it must be remembered that in a large number of cases we had agreed. The Commission has rendered valuable help to the Government in various ways besides advising us on disciplinary cases, e.g., by holding examinations for various appointments and discharging various duties in respect of recruitment to several services. Every one now agrees that it is carrying out its duties very well. There are many Members of this House who have pointed out the very useful part the Madras Services Commission is playing and will play in future in the administration of this country.

" The rules of communal recruitment came in for a certain amount of criticism and modifications were proposed in certain directions. It was suggested that provision should be made for backward Hindu communities numbering about 17 millions. I have no time now to go into details. I have refused to consider any alteration of the rules in favour of small communities but as the number is so large in this case I will consider whether anything should be done in this instance. As regards Indian Christians, objection is taken to the inclusion of Anglo-Indians and non-Asiatics in the same category. It should be remembered however

3
p.m.

[Sir Archibald Campbell] [15th March 1934]

that the non-Asiatics will generally be members of what is known as 'the domiciled community.' Under General Rule 5 (b) of the rules,

'No candidate other than one who has been born in the Presidency of Madras or who has been domiciled therein for a period of not less than ten years immediately preceding the date of his application shall, except with the previous sanction of the Local Government and except in accordance with such conditions and restrictions as they may lay down, be included in any list of approved candidates. Such sanction shall not be accorded unless the Commission certifies that a sufficient number of qualified and suitable candidates so born or domiciled is not available.'

So, if the number of persons who are to be employed cannot be found from among the Indian or domiciled communities, then only the question of appointing non-Asiatics from outside India will arise. If we do not include this particular community in this category, it is difficult to see in what other category the candidates can be suitably included, for they are too small in number to justify their inclusion in a separate category by themselves.

"One hon. Member referred to the inadequacy of representation of the Andhras in the services generally and in the Secretariat in particular. As I have pointed out on previous occasions, supporting my statements with figures, the principal reason for the under-representation of Andhras in the Secretariat is the paucity of applicants for the posts; this is a matter which can be set right by the Andhras themselves to a large extent and I am sure that we shall have an improvement in this respect, as the education of Andhras advances."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the Hon. Member that the time for putting the Demand is up?"

* The Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD CAMPBELL:—"There is only one other matter, Sir, which, with your permission, I shall briefly refer to; and that is the question of the age-limit prescribed for admission to the Executive Branch of the Madras Civil Service and the limits placed by the Board of Revenue on the age for promotion of revenue subordinates to be Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars. It must be borne in mind, Sir, that the Madras Civil Service is one of the most important provincial services for it is from among the ranks of the Deputy Collectors that we have to choose men to take the place of Indian Civil Service officers. The restriction as regards the age for selection of Deputy Collectors has been prescribed with a view to get the efficient men, who are still active and who after getting sufficient training in the department, will be of service to the country for a period of about ten years before they retire. It is from these men that we have to select officers for promotion to listed posts in the Indian Civil Service and it is undesirable that they should be so promoted just at the end of their service."

Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"With the permission of the House, I beg to withdraw my motion."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

15th March 1934]

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is—
'that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,29,63,400 under Demand X—Secretariat and Headquarters Establishments, District Administration and Miscellaneous—Reserved.'"

The Demand was carried and the Grant was made.

DEMAND XI—MINISTERS, CIVIL SECRETARIATS AND
 MISCELLANEOUS—TRANSFERRED.

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

'that the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,47,300 under Demand XI—Ministers, Civil Secretariats and Miscellaneous—Transferred.'"

* Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"Mr. President, Sir, I move that—
'the allotment of Rs. 1,65,300 for Ministers—Pay of Officers, be reduced by Rs. 100.'"

"The object of my motion is to draw the attention of the Hon. Ministers to certain points which require attention in the interests of the people of this Province. Sir, it is a matter well-known to all that too much attention is being paid to what is called 'public opinion.' Public opinion in this Province unfortunately is not well-informed, nor is it properly focussed, but it is one which cannot lightly be neglected. The Hon. Ministers have been doing their level best to satisfy public opinion as far as possible, consistent with their duties as responsible Ministers to the Government.

"The Hon. the Chief Minister, ever since he took charge of his office, has been responsible for pushing through this Council a series of enactments calculated to promote the welfare and prosperity of the country. He has done so at a considerable sacrifice of his time and energy; and I am sure it will be admitted that he has given his best to serve the people of the Province."

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA:—"Sir, may I rise to a point of order? Can the hon. Member who speaks be prompted by the Secretary to one of the Ministers?"

Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"Sir, I may say that it is the height of impertinence on the part of a Member to suggest that another Member is incapable of speaking for himself and that if a word or two has been uttered by somebody sitting by his side, he is being instructed or prompted by him. I wish, Sir, that the hon. Member withdraws that suggestion."

"Sir, I was referring to the work of the Hon. the Chief Minister. The latest of his achievements is the abolition of the taluk boards which certainly is a measure which required a great amount of courage and tact. I congratulate the Hon. the Chief Minister for having successfully piloted the measure into an Act, thus abolishing the taluk boards, which have been found to be eating into the vitals of this Province."

[Mr. C. Basu Dev]

[15th March 1934]

"I would like, on this occasion, to invite the kind attention of the Hon. the Chief Minister to the humble request of the municipal employees. At the time when the Bill for the appointment of commissioners for municipalities was being discussed, the Hon. the Chief Minister gave the assurance, that, as far as possible and consistent with efficiency of administration, he would give preference to municipal officials. I would respectfully remind him of that assurance and hope that he would translate it into action. The recent appointment of some Government servants as Commissioners has caused considerable anxiety in the minds of the municipal employees, and I hope the Hon. the Chief Minister would take early steps to dispel that fear and reassure such of those who are efficient in the municipal services that their claims would not be left unconsidered, and that they would be absorbed in the category of commissioners.

"Coming next to the Second Minister, Sir, I think I must congratulate him on the work he has been responsible for, during the last year, though I would wish that in the matter of co-operation, greater attention was paid and much stricter supervision was exercised by the officers of that department. On the whole, Sir, the Hon. the Minister has done well in administering the departments entrusted to his care. I think I will not be unnecessarily wasting the time of the Council if I repeat once more that the officers of the Co-operative department should pay more attention to and exercise greater supervision over the working of the co-operative societies and co-operative banks in the Province. I would even go further and request him to see that the loans that are applied for to them are properly and usefully spent by the persons who take such loans.

"In the department of Agriculture, though the department has been doing good work, I am afraid it has only just begun to co-ordinate its activities with those of the Co-operative and Industries departments. Only the other day I read in the papers that the heads of these three departments went to Bezwada to find ways and means for co-ordinating their efforts in order to promote the prosperity of the ryot. I hope, Sir, that such co-ordination will increase as days go by resulting in greater prosperity of the people.

"The Hon. the Minister is now engaged on the Land Mortgage Bank Bill. Sir, there is a considerable amount of doubt as to the benefit it is calculated to confer on the ryots. Whatever it is, the hope is there, that the Land Mortgage Bank Bill, if properly worked, would promote the happiness and relieve the indebtedness of the ryots. In that hope, Sir, I am sure this House in the course of a few days will pass into law the Bill which has been sponsored by the Hon. Minister.

"Coming to the Third Minister, Sir, in the department of Education, it was my privilege to draw his attention last year, and the year before last, to the abuses of the Text-Book Committees and other educational authorities in changing text-books year after year. The Hon. Minister had given us an assurance in this House that he would pay

15th March 1934]

[Mr. C. Basu Dev]

attention to this matter. I am sure, Sir, that in the course of the next year, he will investigate the matter thoroughly and take necessary action to remove this abuse which works a great hardship on the parents of boys and thereby give them the necessary relief.

“So far as Education is concerned, I cannot agree with the policy the Government are now following. That is only my personal opinion, an opinion with which a good many in this House may not agree. We are spending far too much money on elementary education without any commensurate result. If I am convinced that the results are good, I will be the first to vote for even double the amount now spent on it. I feel that it would be far better to entrust the matter of educating children to responsible members in villages forming what I may call educational panchayats and give them such facilities from time to time as financial aid and supervision. Fortunately, by the abolition of the taluk boards, the dual control over elementary schools would, to some extent, be minimized. Let us hope that the committees of the district board, dealing with elementary education, would raise the standard of education and do all that is necessary for effecting considerable improvements.”

* Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—“Mr. President, Sir, the Legislative Council passed a resolution which was supported by most of the Members of the party of which the Hon. the Raja of Bobbili is the leader. The Hon. Ministers have not as yet made any statement on the attitude taken by the ministry in this regard. Some days ago, the Hon. the Chief Minister prided himself on the loyal support his party had given him in the matter of the Local Boards (Amendment) Bill. No doubt, it is acknowledged on all hands that, though there were differences of opinion on the question, they submitted themselves to the views of the leader of the party. But, Sir, I find that when the followers have been so loyal, the leader himself has not been loyal to his party in that the leader himself being in the Cabinet has not done anything to carry out the wishes of his party in regard to the resolution on the 25 per cent land revenue remission. I would request the Hon. the Chief Minister to make a statement on the floor of this House on the effort he and the other Hon. Ministers have taken in the Cabinet, so that we, on this side, may know what actually took place.

“Recently, after the Council had passed the Local Boards (Amendment) Bill, we heard that the tolls were going to be introduced. Now, I am glad to hear that the question has been dropped. I must congratulate the Hon. Minister at least now and would request him not to think of bringing it again to the Council at any time.

“Sir, a word with regard to the power taken by the Government in the matter of nominations during the transitory period. When once the Government have given up the powers of nomination by Dr. Subbarayan's Bill, I think it is undesirable to revive it even during the transitory period. If it cannot be helped, I would request him to use these powers very carefully, and in cases of emergency, and

[Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari] [15th March 1934]

even there I hope he will not dump his own party men and people who are unconnected with the party, but will nominate representatives of the backward communities and women.

“Sir, the Raja of Chellapalli was appointed an honorary organizer by the Inspector of Local Boards and the Government have cancelled it. If there was any irregularity, the Government could have given him a chance of being heard and could have asked him to resign. I consider this is not a desirable step on the part of the Hon. Minister.

“In the district of Guntur, a panchayat officer was appointed by the district board president. The Government raised some objection that applications were not called for, though some two to three hundred applications were received in the office, and that the appointment was not desirable or some such thing. But, when subsequently they took the power of appointing panchayat officers, they did not call for any applications; and they state that about 2,000 applications were received. I feel that the Government have not themselves followed the procedure of inviting applications which they said the president of the district board should have followed.

“I would request the Hon. the Second and Third Ministers to start industries for the benefit of the agricultural classes. I see they have not provided any amount for this purpose in their present budget. As a matter of fact, I think the Government of India have taken more prompt action than the Madras Government have taken in the matter of import of rice into this country. No doubt, Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliyar and others have agitated in the Legislative Assembly and have procured this protection to our agriculturists; but our Hon. Ministers seem not to have taken any action for the last two years though we have been repeatedly urging on them the necessity for immediate action.”

MR. C. BASU DEV:—“Mr. President, Sir, on a point of order . . .”
(Hon. Members: ‘Order, order.’)

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“Let us hear Mr. Basu Dev.”

MR. C. BASU DEV:—“Sir, the recent ban on the import of rice is certainly due to the efforts of the Hon. Ministers.”

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“Is this a point of order?”

MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHAUDARI:—“I know whether it is due to the Hon. Minister’s action or due to some outside agency in the Legislative Assembly. It is for the Hon. Minister to reply to me on this point. If there has been any action taken by the Hon. Minister, I will certainly acknowledge it and thank the Hon. Minister for the trouble he has taken in this regard. I wish the Hon. Minister will make a statement and I do not expect Mr. Basu Dev to make it.”

MR. C. BASU DEV:—“On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I would draw the attention of the hon. Member to the glaring head-

15th March 1934]

[Mr. C. Basu Dev]

lines in the *Madras Mail* on the subject.” (Voices: ‘Is this a personal explanation?’)

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The hon. Member does not seem to have made out on both the occasions either a point of order or a personal explanation.”

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—“As regards concession freights by the Madras Southern Mahratta Railway nothing seems to have been done. The Government have been saying that they are corresponding with the Government of India. The matter is urgent and they should have reminded or wired to the Government of India for an early decision on this question.

“I find, Sir, that it is not through the efforts of the Madras Government that the Marketing Board is going to be constituted. So far as I could see, it has not been through the initiative of the Madras Government.

“In conclusion, I would appeal to the Hon. Ministers, as the representatives of the people, to bring home their opinion to the Reserved Half; they have done so in one case, but still, Sir, as they have not made their position clear, I request them to make a statement on the floor of the House so that the suspicions in the minds of the people may be allayed.”

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“Mr. President, Sir, may I suggest that this motion of Mr. Basu Dev be put to vote as no serious discussion, on a motion moved by an hon. Member sitting behind the Ministers, can take place.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“If this motion is to be put to vote, other motions to discuss policy cannot be discussed. There are other motions. As a matter of fact, when larger questions of discussing policy have been taken up, minor questions may not be taken up separately. If the hon. Member wanted it, he could have moved for leave of the House to take up such of the items as would have suited him.”

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“Mr. President, Sir, when my friend moved his motion for a token cut in the salaries of the Hon. Ministers I thought he was going to provide this House with some pyrotechnics. But I was very disappointed. It is a well-understood Parliamentary convention that any hon. Member giving notice of a cut motion means it seriously, that there is something wrong in the policy pursued by the Ministers and therefore their salaries ought to be cut down to the extent to which he has given notice. I was surprised that, while the motion of the hon. Member is ‘to reduce the allotment of Rupees 1,65,300 for Ministers—Pay of Officers by Rs. 100 to discuss their policies,’ he went on praising the Ministers one after another without giving us any idea as to what was wrong with the policy of the Ministers. He has himself in the course of his speech supported.”

[15th March 1934]

Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"Mr. President, on a point of personal explanation, Sir, may I say that, in speaking on my cut motion, as far as I could appreciate their policy, I have appreciated it. I have given certain suggestions to be acted upon and have pointed out some faults. The object of my cut motion was merely to discuss policy."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"I should in the first instance like to ask the Hon. Ministers as to what advice they have tendered to His Excellency the Governor in regard to the country wide demand for a remission of at least 25 per cent in land revenue. As has been rightly pointed out by my friend, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari, as representatives of the people at large, they ought to have tendered the right sort of advice to His Excellency the Governor on such an important issue. Perhaps, Cabinet convention may prevent them from revealing on the floor of the House what advice they gave to His Excellency. Nevertheless, I believe they are quite free to make a statement as to what their policy or attitude is in regard to this Demand and whether . . ."

Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"Mr. President, Sir, may I know if it is in order for the hon. Member to criticize the Hon. Ministers over a subject which is not under their jurisdiction? The subject is a Reserved one under the control of the Hon. Member for Revenue."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I must deprecate the hon. Member getting up very often and trying to interrupt hon. Members on the opposite side. If he has any sound points to make, such occasions are rare, he may not make them so very often."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"I was saying, Mr. President, that the Hon. Ministers should come out openly and say what they think of this demand, whether the demand for remission for 25 per cent in the rate of assessments on land to which the majority of the members of their own party have subscribed is legitimate or not. Let them make a categorical statement as to what they feel whether this demand on the part of the ryot for 25 per cent remission is legitimate or not."

3-30
p.m.

"Then, Sir, coming to the activities of the Hon. the Chief Minister, no doubt the year that we are closing now has been one of great legislative activity, and we must say that the Hon. the Chief Minister has taken a great deal of pains in regard to the legislative proposals which he has placed before this House. But, having said that, I must say frankly, that the legislative proposals which he has placed before this House and passed into law were all carried through hurriedly. If I remember right, the Hon. the Chief Minister during the time he was a non-official Member occupying a seat on the non-official benches, put in a very strong plea in favour of the establishment of Second Chambers in this Province. One of the arguments that he then advanced in support of Second Chambers was that they would act as a check on hurried legislation and would give an opportunity to the electorate to express its views on any legislation that the Government

15th March 1934]

[Mr. V. T. Arasu]

might bring forward. Sir, I am sorry that the Hon. the Chief Minister has forgotten that dictum of his and has made himself responsible for hurrying through this House a measure like the Madras Local Boards Amending Act within a span of about 15 or 20 days at the most, from the publication of the original Bill to the passing of that measure. But, I do not propose to go into the merits of the Bill, for you will remember, Sir, the question was discussed on the floor of this House when the Bill was considered clause by clause, and I am sure, whatever opinions we may hold in regard to the Bill, it has now passed through this House and is going to become law in the course of a few days. On that matter, I am sure the country at large would express its opinion one way or the other, whether the step taken was the right one or not, when we all face the electorate, which I hope would be ere long.

“Secondly, I would like to make a few remarks regarding the policy pursued by the Hon. the Chief Minister in the matter of the appointment of commissioners to municipalities. Sir, when the Madras District Municipalities Act Amending Bill was on the Legislative anvil, I believe, the Hon. the Chief Minister gave an undertaking in this House that he would appoint commissioners only to the municipalities mentioned in the schedule to the Act—I believe the number included in that schedule was somewhere about 11 or 12. But, I find, subsequent to the passing of that Act, as a result of the reserve powers vested in the Government by one of the sections in that Act, the Hon. the Chief Minister has been going on appointing commissioners to various municipalities one after another, and that too, in spite of the strong and repeated protests both on the part of the municipalities concerned and on the part of the public at large in those municipalities. I can quote a number of instances where commissioners have been appointed by the Hon. the Chief Minister, although there were several public meetings in the places concerned protesting against Government's intention to appoint commissioners; and yet commissioners have been appointed to those places. After all, the idea with which our local-self-governing institutions were formed, seems to me to be that non-official gentlemen should be given an opportunity to gain administrative experience, so that they might make use of such experience when they are called upon to occupy high positions in life. If it is the policy of the Minister to appoint commissioners and thus deprive non-officials of the opportunity to gain administrative experience, I ask, how would it be possible for non-official gentlemen to gain administrative experience. Sir, another reason that is usually advanced in support of the appointment of commissioners to municipalities and other local-self-governing institutions is this, that corruption is rampant in those bodies and unless a Government official is put there as a commissioner, it would grow worse. That is one of the reasons advanced by some of the advocates of this procedure. Sir, I ask whether Government servants, simply because they happen to be

[Mr. V. T. Arasu]

[15th March 1934]

Government servants, can be said to be incorruptible. Several instances have been brought to my notice—and I believe, every hon. Member of this House must also have come across such instances—wherein Government servants have often been found to be corrupt. Therefore it cannot be made a general rule that simply because a Government servant is appointed a commissioner, he will be incorruptible and that the administration will go on smoothly and safely.

“In the matter of these appointments the other great mistake that the Minister has committed is the choice of persons. All sorts of people have been selected for these appointments. In some cases Deputy Collectors have been chosen, while in others ordinary clerks in the Secretariat have been chosen for these posts. It seems strange, Sir, that persons from such wide range of cadres, who have had no acquaintance with the working of these institutions, should have been chosen for these places.

“Now, as regards the Tolls Bill, I wanted to say very much, but I now think I need not dwell at any great length on that subject; because I understand the question of bringing it up has been dropped for the present. I wish it were dropped for ever, but if the Hon. the Chief Minister should have any idea of bringing it up again before this House at any future date, I should like to tell him that it would be a retrograde step and a step which will be resented by large sections of the public and particularly the rural population.

“Sir, there is also a legitimate complaint on the part of some of the local bodies in the Tamil districts that in the matter of the distribution of grants and loans to local bodies, differential treatment is meted out. There is a strong feeling that the local bodies in the Telugu districts get a lion's share in the matter of grants and loans, and particularly in the matter of the distribution of funds* which this Government get by way of subventions from the Central Road Development Fund. I am very sorry to note that very nearly 70 or 80 per cent of that fund is being given year after year to the Telugu districts to the detriment of the Tamil districts. From the report of the working of the local self-governing institutions, which I have in my hand, I find that during the last two or three years some of the Telugu districts have been spending large sums of money on bridges and trunk roads. The total amount of money spent on bridges which have been completed or in progress now in the Ganjam district is about 10·7 lakhs—I am referring to the total amount spent during the last two or three years—and in the West Godavari district, it amounts to about 13 lakhs; in Nellore about 11 lakhs; in Vizagapatam 19·89 lakhs. *On the other hand, in the case of the Tamil districts, I find that sufficient funds have not been placed in their hands to enable them to spend such large amounts for the construction of bridges and the laying of first-class roads. I may mention here that there was a request from three district boards in the Tamil area, namely, South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly, asking the Hon. the Chief Minister to give them about 1½ lakhs

15th March 1934]

[Mr. V. T. Arasu]

for the construction of two important bridges on a roadway which connects Villupuram with the lower anicut, which is a very important road from a strategical point, and which is the shortest route to Tanjore. This is a road which connects Villupuram with the lower anicut via Sethiatope and is the shortest route from Madras to Tanjore. This very important road has been neglected for the past several years and if only Government would give to the district boards concerned the sum of about 1½ lakhs out of the Central Road Development Fund, in order to enable them to construct these two bridges, I am sure that road will be made available to the public at large and thereby a great boon would be conferred on the people. But, in spite of the repeated requests on the part of the three district boards mentioned by me, nothing has so far been done by the Hon. the Chief Minister.

“ These are some of the acts of commission and omission on the part of the Hon. the Chief Minister and I would like to take this opportunity of referring to the activities of the Hon. the Second Minister who is supposed to be in charge of the Development Department. I do not know what he has been developing. For once at least, I think, I can agree with my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, in what he said, namely, that the Hon. the Second Minister has succeeded in growing two blades of grass where only one blade of grass was growing. I think that is all that he has been doing. In the matter of the Agricultural department, which is capable of conferring great benefits to the agriculturists, he has not done anything in the matter and the agriculturists are in the same position as they were before this Development Department was inaugurated in the year 1920 as a result of the reforms.

“ Now to the Third Minister, the Hon. the Minister for Education. The period under review has been one of glorious inactivity on the part of the Third Minister. The imperfections of the Elementary Education Act have been only too often pointed out to the Hon. the Third Minister. He has been, year after year, holding out promises to this House that he would take up the question of amending the Elementary Education Act as early as possible; and that ‘ as early as possible ’ I believe, Sir, has not yet come.

“ Then, Sir, about the educational policy of the Government, I think I will have an opportunity of speaking at great length when the Education Demand comes up for discussion before this House. However, I wish to take this opportunity of finding fault with the Hon. the Minister for Education for not having done anything in regard to the recommendations made by Mr. Champion for imparting efficient education to children. Mr. Champion, the Special Officer, appointed by the Government, recommended certain proposals to the Government regarding the ways and means by which efficiency can be secured by Government and by which inefficient elementary schools can be put an end to and efficient central schools may be established. This report of Mr. Champion came up before this House for discussion on several

[Mr. V. T. Arasu]

[15th March 1934]

occasions. The Hon. the Education Minister has given us the impression on all such occasions that the view of the Government whether they would accept the proposals or not, would be expressed at a very early date. I do not think that Government have till now come forward with any definite statement whether they are going to accept that report or going to reject it. I want the Hon. the Minister to make a definite statement on that.

“ Sir, these are some of the points which have been uppermost in my mind regarding the policy pursued by the Hon. Ministers who are occupying the Treasury Benches to-day.”

3-45
p.m.

* Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I too add my support to this cut motion and make some observations not in the same way as my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, did, but in the real sense of a cut motion. With regard to the policy pursued by the Hon. the Chief Minister, Sir, I may say that he is going far too much to help his party men. The questions which have been answered this morning, will show that the Minister ought to have dealt with the complaints made to him in a more satisfactory way. The Government have issued strict instructions with regard to the disposal of tenders and yet I find, Sir, when definite charges are placed before the Government with regard to the violation of the rules which they themselves have issued and wanted them to be adopted, they say now they do not propose to take any action. I can understand, Sir, the position of Ministers in helping their party people; but I must humbly submit to you that they should not go to such lengths. Then, Sir, I must also make mention with regard to the way in which papers received in his department are dealt with. I am glad, Sir, that whenever any complaint is made to the Secretary and the Hon. the Chief Minister, they are good enough to acknowledge, but the final disposal is taking an unduly long time. As a matter of fact, I may quote one instance, namely, the disposal of papers relating to tender disposal in Salem District Board which I have placed before the Government in February last year. That has not been, I understand, finally disposed of even to-day. From the answers furnished to questions which came up this morning, I understand Government are not inclined to pursue the matter any further. But even that is not definitely replied to me. Almost a year has passed, and I have sent half a dozen reminders and once or twice I have even requested the Secretary and the Minister personally to look into the matter. In spite of all these, it has not been disposed of yet and I have not been given any definite reply so far. Some other references are also pending with the department and I hope they might be able to make quick disposals of all these references. Then, Sir, I may pass on to the Tolls Bill. I am glad the Hon. Minister has realized the mistake that has been committed and he has been prudent enough to drop the Bill at present. It would have been very well on his part if he had not published the Bill at all. The publishing of the Bill produced great consternation in the minds of the public, and the

15th March 1934] [Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder]

very publication of the Bill forced people to convene meetings and to take all sorts of precautionary methods to prevent the Bill being passed into law. I am extremely glad, Sir, the Hon. the Minister has realized the mistake before it was too late, and has taken it out of sight now. But I wish that he takes it away during his regime and his successors will also see that it does not come up again for ever. In the matter of tolls, I am of opinion that the ryots should not be taxed in that manner, for almost all the cart-owning people are ryots and they contribute to these local bodies in the shape of cesses on the land revenue, etc. For these, they are not getting adequate benefit—these cesses called road-cess, railway-cess, etc.—and now the aggregate amount collected only as local fund cess are contributed by ryots for roads, and other amenities. Since they have already paid their quota for all these things, I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is right to tax them again in the shape of tolls. So, Sir, I am not able to make out the position of demanding double tax from the ryots for the benefit they are getting and for which they are already paying their share.

“ With regard to the Hon. the Second Minister, Sir, I wish to draw his attention to an important fact which merits his immediate action. That is the present position of the District Urban Bank, Salem. I am reliably informed, Sir, that the working of the bank is almost at a standstill now. For your information, Sir, I may state that the election of the board of management was conducted in October last, in the very presence and immediate direction of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, in a very orderly manner without the least objections being raised then with regard to the conduct of that election. But subsequently objections were raised by a member, and referred to the Registrar, who in his turn forwarded the same to the Deputy Registrar of Salem for disposal. The Deputy Registrar though he concluded the enquiry during the third week of December 1933, kept the paper with him till the middle of January and pronounced judgment on the eve of Silver Jubilee celebration of the bank, stating that the elections held at that time were not valid. If the Hon. Minister is here, he will remember, Sir, that he himself was inconvenienced on that occasion, because at that time the board decided to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the bank under his presidency, and he was to go to Salem for the purpose. The Hon. Minister has just come into the hall, and he knows that he had to cancel his journey to Salem. The Silver Jubilee celebration was fixed for the 21st of January last and this decision stating that the election was not valid was announced on the 15th of that month. So, the Silver Jubilee celebrations were cancelled as there was no legal body to represent, since the election was declared invalid. It seems at present, the affairs of the bank are at a standstill, because of the conflicting orders from the Registrar. It seems that he has first of all ordered that the existing board will continue to function until fresh elections are held. Next to that, he seems to have ordered that the board which existed before the election which was declared invalid

[Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder] [15th March 1934]

will revive and continue to function. Because of this sort of conflicting orders I am informed that the work of the bank is suffering very much. I am told more than Rs. 50,000 loan applications are pending disposal at the bank as it is not stated beyond doubt as to who is to carry on the administration of the bank now, and I wish the Minister will look immediately into the matter and set things right.

“ With regard to the Excise Minister, I should like to make a few observations and then I have done. I could have talked about them on the Excise demand, but since I could not have an opportunity then and since I have the privilege to state them now, I am bringing them to his notice. In the Excise policy of Government, it was their intention and assurance also to effect complete prohibition within 20 years, and as was already pointed out by some hon. Members at the time of Excise demand, that 20 years is being shifted from year to year for the past six or seven years and even now, it is still 20 years. I am very much doubtful if in these 20 years, taking it from this day even, they will effect complete prohibition. In the district which I have the honour to represent, the Government was kind enough to introduce prohibition in some places. But I must state that because of the policy they persued and for want of effective supervision, the prohibition failed, because we cannot expect all people to be pure. There may be a large percentage of them willing to have prohibition, but even then there will be a small section which will always be addicted to drink. If the department could have effectively prevented liquors being imported into the dry area and also have a genuine interest that they should carry on this prohibition, my opinion is that they could have done it. The policy of prohibition which was adopted by Government is defective in this respect, because they have taken a single place of about five miles radius and introduced prohibition in that area alone having liquor shops all around it. That is not the way to effect prohibition, because if they close the shop here, some of the rural people who do not understand the consequence and evil of drink once they are addicted to it, go to the next shop which is nearby and continue their habit of drink. If the Government had tried prohibition by closing all the liquor shops in an entire district, I could very well say that prohibition would have become a complete success. So, the policy adopted in the matter of prohibition was not a sound one and it cannot at all be successful in the circumstances obtaining now. So, I request the Government to examine the question thoroughly and launch prohibition on effective lines. With regard to the Excise department, I must bring to the Hon. Minister's notice that the department is not exercising its duties properly. In the matter of sale of liquors they are not enforcing the rules strictly. In very many villages, we find toddy and arrack are sold in unlicensed places. Apart from being against the rules, it also demoralizes the whole area. I must say that

1 p.m. it also reduces the income of the Government from the sale of the toddy and arrack shops. If the Government would strictly put down illicit

15th March 1934] [Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder]

sale surely they stand to gain. I request the Hon. Minister to pay his earnest attention to this point and see that no illicit sale of liquors in unauthorized places takes place.

“ With regard to education, Sir, I would like to say something.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ May I inform the hon. Member that we have four hours for the Demand under Education? ”

* Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Thank you, Sir, for the kind suggestion. I shall take my chance then under that Demand. But my doubt is whether I will get an opportunity to speak on it.”

* Mr. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ Mr. President, Sir, if this motion which was moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, is to be taken as a serious motion for expressing any sort of lack of confidence in the present Ministry or for expressing any criticism on the policy pursued, I would say that there is an air of unreality about it. I believe, Sir, that this air of unreality has been created not only by my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev's speech, but equally so by the speeches of my hon. Friends on the Opposition benches.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, in dealing with the speech of Mr. Basu Dev said that the Parliamentary convention is that, when a cut motion of this sort is moved, the mover is expected to make serious criticisms in support of it. But I would ask this House to judge Mr. Arasu's professions from his own practice. In dealing with the Hon. the Second Minister he said that the Second Minister succeeded in growing two blades of grass where only one blade was growing. I believe, Sir, that that is praise of which any Minister in any Province of the country should be proud (loud laughter). I think that praise, coming in the garb of a criticism from the Opposition benches, must be really considered to be a valuable one. I do not know what my hon. Friend Mr. Arasu's ideas of loyalty are. I have heard that some people are colour-blind. Perhaps my hon. Friend is capable of seeing only deep colours and can only see the extremes. Sir, the fact that my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, in support of his motion laid stress on a few points here and there, points which were more in the nature of suggestions than anything else, is no excuse for my hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, commenting on party loyalty and all that sort of thing. Sir, he has poor ideas of loyalty if he thinks that that should prevent anybody from giving friendly suggestions or criticisms for improving or ameliorating certain points which require criticism or amelioration. Every Member sitting on this side of the House is loyal to the Ministry. It does not follow therefore that we are debarred from offering friendly suggestions or criticisms to our own Ministry. Apart from that, I believe, it is the same thing that has been followed by my hon. Friends on the Opposition benches in respect of this motion. I would say, Sir, that it is a matter which has been universally acknowledged that the Hon. the Chief Minister deserves the warmest gratitude of the people of this Presidency for successfully piloting a Bill for the

[Mr. Daniel Thomas] [15th March 1934]

abolition of the taluk boards. The thing was bound to come sometime. It is only a question of time. As a matter of pure logic and as a matter of pure administrative arrangement, duplication of machinery had to be abolished. There was no justification for the existence of two bodies dealing with the same matters. Sir, the fact that the Hon. the Chief Minister, in the face of vested interests, in the face of an outburst of criticism from interested quarters, ventured to initiate such a measure and get it passed, speaks volumes in praise of the Ministry that is now in charge of the affairs of this Province. But, at the same time, I should like to say that after all we are only in the beginning of affairs so far as that matter is concerned. The Bill no doubt has been passed, but in the working out of it, in the bifurcation of the various district boards and in following up the principle of the Bill, I submit, Sir, a good deal of care, a good deal of caution has to be exercised if it is to fulfil the expectations of its framers. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, said that the Bill was hurried through this House with precipitancy. I do not see any point in that criticism. The financial year commences on 1st April and, if this Bill is to become operative early, there must be sometime between the date of passing thereof and the 1st April to permit of arrangements being made for its operation from the commencement of the new financial year. Therefore, if anything, for this achievement, it is not blame but praise that is due to the Hon. the Chief Minister.

“ There was some criticism made with regard to the appointment of commissioners of municipalities. I am surprised, here again that my hon. Friends in the Opposition benches should think of criticising the Ministry for this thing. The Bill which secured the approval of various sections of the House, pre-eminently the approval of the Members of the Opposition, was none other than the one piloted by my hon. Friend, Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, for the appointment of Commissioners to municipalities. Now, Sir, the Hon. the Chief Minister is only following the policy laid down in that Bill and exercising the powers vested in him under that Act. I submit therefore that there is really no point in the criticism of hon. Members in this matter.

“ As regards the Tolls Bill all sections of the House have expressed themselves in favour of its being delayed and it has been also stated that the Hon. the Chief Minister has done well in not bringing it up. In connexion with this Bill the financial implications and other things have to be examined and I believe in the light of such examination the Hon. Minister will bring it up.

“ So far as the Hon. the Chief Minister is concerned, I do not find that anything more serious has been said against him by the Members of the Opposition benches.

“ As regards Education there was some criticism about the Champion Scheme. Here again, I submit that it is open to the Government to adopt or reject the Champion Scheme. It is not as if the whole thing

15th March 1934]

[Mr. Daniel Thomas]

has to be rushed through. Each individual scheme will be examined on the merits and orders passed. For my part I believe that in the matter of the Champion Scheme the Government ought not to be too precipitate as it is a matter which concerns such an important subject as elementary education. In a matter of that kind which concerns the future of the whole Province so deeply and intimately, we cannot afford to make experiments. The wiser course would be to take typical areas, urban and rural, in each district, put the scheme in operation there and in the light of that experience extend it to other areas. I am sure the Hon. Minister for Education will consider this aspect when schemes come up for orders.

"In conclusion I submit, Sir, that this motion is only a sort of friendly motion intended to draw the attention of the Ministry to certain aspects of the administration. Seeing that the object has been achieved, I believe, my hon. Friend will withdraw his motion."

* Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU :—"Sir, if I rise to offer a few remarks, it is neither to congratulate the Ministry nor to congratulate my hon. Friends who have spoken on behalf of the Ministry. All that I now wish to say to the Ministry is that they ought not to form part of the bureaucracy but that they ought to realize the interests of the people whom they are expected to represent here.

"Now, Sir, the question is whether the Ministry has made any provision in the Budget for improving elementary education or medicine, or public health or village water-supply and village communications. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, was saying that several lakhs have been allotted for the construction of bridges all over the Presidency, especially in the Telugu districts. It is not a matter of much concern for me whether in every district there are bridges under construction or in contemplation. But my hon. Friend further on said that, so far as the Telugu districts are concerned, they are much favoured. Sir, so far as the West Godavari district is concerned, from the report I find that an allotment for a bridge of Rs. 27,000 has been wrongly shown as Rs. 3,37,000. Anyway, I do not care whether you have bridges on the trunk roads or second-class roads. My point is whether you have made sufficient provision for village communications, and sufficient provision for village water-supply. I see from the Budget that a large sum was asked for, but that it was cut down to a large extent. My hon. Friend, Mr. Langley, the other day when arguing about village communications said that the main duty of the Government is to provide more village communications and better village water-supply. What have the Government done? I see from the Budget that only $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs are granted for village water-supply for the whole Presidency. Out of this sum what is it that is going to be distributed by the Inspector of Local Boards? What is it that the Ministry is going to give to the several local bodies in the Presidency? For village communications such a small sum as $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs has been

[Mr. P. Peddi Raju]

[15th March 1934]

provided. With this amount what do you expect the Inspector of Local Bodies to do? What can he do with this paltry sum of Rs. 2½ lakhs? I submit this is not dealing fairly with the district boards and panchayats. From this I conclude that the Ministry has not been able to mirror the public opinion in the Presidency. It has only been strengthening the bureaucracy and not caring for the interests of the masses. If the Ministry says that the present financial condition of the Presidency is not favourable to push forward any big scheme, all I can say is that the Ministry is trying to fit the shoe without squeeze or pinch to the Reserved Half.

4-15
p.m.

“Is that the way, I ask, the Ministry should function? We do not want that so much money should be spent on the establishment for Education, or that you should construct a hospital in the City at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs. I only ask, cannot you spend every year Rs. 10 lakhs towards village communications and village sanitation? I ask is it just to provide for school building for elementary education a sum of Rs. 16,000 only for the whole Presidency? Does the Hon. Minister think that with this sum he can build one elementary school building in a whole year? Then again you are going to spend only Rs. 30,000 on secondary education. When you are doing all these things, that is why I say, you are not discharging your duties and you are not responsive to public opinion.

“Coming to the Second Minister, Mr. Arasu said, of course, he had been able to grow two blades of grass where there already grew only one. I do not think he referred to the development of agriculture when he said that. I think it is with reference to the development in Mr. Rajan's body (Laughter) when he said that. So far as I can see, the Agricultural department has not been beneficial to any. So I appeal to him to see that something is done for the masses, and not be satisfied by saying that they have constructed a number of hospitals here and there, that they have appointed a number of officials either as surgeons or agricultural demonstrators or agricultural experts and so on. In this connexion I would ask the Hon. Second Minister one other thing. Some years back the Government issued an order proposing the establishment of a hospital in Tadepalligudem taluk in West Godavari district. Though that was sanctioned and a house was engaged for rent, all on a sudden the matter was dropped, and in spite of repeated memorials and representations, nothing has been done in the matter. I wish to know from the Hon. the Minister what has become of it. Finally once again I appeal to Hon. Ministers that they must voice the opinion of the people. They must respond to the wishes of the masses in general and not those of the townspeople alone.”

* Mr. M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, it may seem strange that the Chief Whip of the party should rise to speak on a motion like this and it is because the cut motion has now turned into a motion of compliment to the Ministry. Even those who spoke

15th March 1934]

[Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar]

from the Opposition have more or less complimented the Ministry on its work rather than criticized it. (Opposition voices: 'No, no.') In this House it has become an usual thing to withdraw cut motions. Even yesterday we saw the Leader of the Opposition withdrawing his motion on the Reforms. (Opposition voices: 'No, no.') However it is a fact that the Leader of the Opposition withdrew his motion. For the last few days we have seen that cut motions are generally withdrawn. I have no doubt that Mr. Basu Dev will withdraw his motion too. (Opposition voices: 'No, no.') Probably it is his intention to withdraw; and I know he will do it. (Opposition laughter.) I am really thankful to Mr. Basu Dev for his cut motion, as it has afforded me an opportunity to speak on this occasion. In fact this is no cut motion; it is only a motion intended to compliment the Ministry. During one year the Ministry has done very good work, and the details of it have been ably dealt with by my hon. Friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas. The Chief Minister had introduced legislation not merely in the matter of local self-government institutions, but in other departments also under his control. The recent legislation was a very great success. The way in which it was piloted evoked unstinted praise from all parties; and the chorus of congratulations which came forth from all sections of the House only shows that the Bill was a much needed one, and it was in the best interests of local self-government. This also shows that though the Ministry is run on party lines, the measure was conceived and put through in the larger interests of the country. The Local Boards Amending Bill was a contentious measure, but the fact that it was practically agreed to both by the Select Committee and by the Council only shows that the Justice Party are alive to the needs of the people and that they are ready to initiate any legislation or any matter provided it is beneficial to the people. The Council has already seen our policy with regard to the appointment of commissioners to municipalities and various panchayat officers. They are all very contentious acts. It has been usually said of every Minister that for every appointment he makes, he is sure to create at least nineteen enemies. But I should certainly say that with regard to the appointment of commissioners, it is not so, as people have welcomed such appointments. And we are now looking forward to a time when we shall have commissioners for all municipalities. The feeling in this Council is that executive officers should be appointed even to district boards. Though the Chief Minister was willing to insert such a provision in the recent amending Bill, he was more anxious to get through that Bill without complicating it by this provision, conscious as he was that the proposed reform of local boards had already evoked strong criticism from certain quarters.

"I am very glad that the Justice Party has had a glorious record under the leadership of the Chief Minister, whose fair and outspoken attitude on many questions evoked the appreciation of the leaders of parties in this Council. It is a matter of congratulation that the Chief

[Mr. M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar] [15th March 1934]

Minister has, during one year, been able to put through a bold programme of intensive legislation. By singling out the Chief Minister, I do not in any way belittle the administration of the other departments by the other Ministers.

“ One thing I wish to say now is that last year when we were discussing this demand, it was only two or three months since the Chief Minister assumed office, and so it was then premature to offer our congratulations or to pay our compliments to him. But now 14 or 15 months have elapsed since his accession to the Ministry, and during that period he has passed through a great ordeal and has come out of it quite successfully. And I am quite sure that during the coming year he will be able to see that the local self-government institutions, the very backbone of the country, are well developed. As far as I know the Chief Minister, he is one who will not hesitate to introduce any legislation, if it is in the best interests of the Province; and he is one who believes that he should do the right thing irrespective of criticism. And I am glad that the leaders of parties in this Council, on such occasions, have always expressed their sense of appreciation quite frankly and ungrudgingly. I am sure he will be approved by the public, and I have no doubt about that. In future, I wish the policy of the present Ministry is followed by all parties whoever be in power. And should this wish fructify it will only result in the growth of a healthy rivalry of doing good to the Province. I would welcome such a thing and I am glad to see that Mr. Hameed Khan also is echoing that sentiment by his nod.

“ Sir, there is another thing I should like to say. Mr. Peddi Raju complained that the Hon. Ministers have not been able to do this thing and that. To this I have to say, that if they have not introduced any of those things, it is because none is more alive to the present financial stringency than they. And again this also shows that the Ministry is prepared to co-operate with the Government and work Diarchy in the best way possible. It is only with that object that they have not pressed several schemes. So, Mr. Peddi Raju should not think that they have not considered them at all. In fact it is not the fault of the Hon. Ministers; it is due to the present trade depression, which, we are all hoping to get over shortly.

“ Finally, Sir, one thing on which I wish to congratulate the Hon. the Second Minister is the happy announcement made last night that the import of foreign rice has been prohibited. And I am sure it is also due to the efforts of the Hon. Second Minister and the Government of Madras that the Government of India have been induced to put this ban. I dare say the agriculturists of this country will welcome this news, and I hope it would go some way towards helping them in their distress.”

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—“ Mr. President, Sir, I am not going to occupy the time of the House at any length, but I do want to ask one

15th March 1934] [Dr. P. Subbarayan]

or two serious questions of the Hon. Chief Minister in connexion with his reply to a question put by Mr. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar on the 24th March 1933 during the discussion of the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanams Bill. Mr. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar asked:

'Mr. President, in seconding the motion, I would like to have an assurance from the Hon. the Minister that one of the members of the Committee would be an Adi-Dravida.'

To this the Hon. Raja Sahib replied:

'Mr. President, if it is the unanimous wish of the House that this amendment should be accepted, on behalf of the Government, I have no objection to support the motion. As regards the other suggestion of my hon. Friend from Bellary, I can assure my Friends of the Depressed Classes in this Council and also outside the Council, that it will be the duty of the Government to see that all the interests and communities are properly represented in the Committee.'

Mr. President, I do not mean to say that the Hon. Minister has committed himself to anything by his answer. The answer is very clever and evasive. But the impression left in the minds of Members of this Council, representing the Depressed Classes, by that answer was that, if the amendment was withdrawn, the wish of the House would be accepted. For there was then every chance of that amendment being carried through the House; because I know, the House was very keen that at least in this respect the spiritual ban should be removed, and they should be allowed to serve on committees which may be appointed to manage the affairs of the Devasthanam, even though they may not be allowed to get into the temple. But as a matter of fact even that elementary right was not given when the nomination was made. I carefully went into the nomination list. I must confess that the Hon. the Chief Minister did consult me with regard to the nomination of a certain gentleman to the Committee, but all the same he did not nominate any member of the Depressed Classes. I can testify to the fact that he did not make these nominations on a party basis. Therefore I should like to point out that I was rather surprised that in spite of the undertaking he gave by that rather evasive answer, he did not consider the appointment of a member of this community to the Devasthanam Committee. If really the party in power—and I know the principles of the party in power well—had committed itself to the uplift of this class—and it is because the Justice Party has committed itself to this creed it is in power to-day—then it ought to have done something on behalf of this downtrodden and oppressed community. If the Chief Minister had been bold enough to appoint a member of this community to the Tirumalai-Tirupati Devasthanam Committee, I think he would have justified the principle of the party, and would have taken a bold step and it would have redounded to the credit of his name. I am sorry that that step was not taken, and I hope when the next opportunity occurs he would rectify this grave error, because I know it is a grave error. That is one point.

'The second point I wish to state relates to Education. But, as you yourself observed, Mr. President, that there are full four hours allotted to the Education Demand, I will not state it now.

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

[15th March 1934]

"There is no doubt a feeling in the minds of the people that by means of the provision for nomination, which has been secured in the amendment passed in the Local Boards Act, it may be used for party purposes. But I do not want to press that point any further. I was glad of the assurance given by the Hon. the Chief Minister at the end of the debate of the Local Boards Act, that that was not the purpose of the amendment, but that this power which is vested with the Government would only be used for the purpose of seeing the members of communities, who deserved representation but who do not find a place in the bifurcated boards, adequately represented.

4-30
p.m.

"We have heard a great deal about the question of land revenue and I believe my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, raised a point of order in which you did not see anything to show that it was right on the part of any Member of this Council to raise that question on this debate. But as the Government of this Province has been working—at least hon. Members can give me the credit of knowing something of the inner working of the Government in this Province—I do feel that if joint responsibility is to be a point that is to be emphasized, the Hon. the Ministers ought to have the courage of conviction to state exactly what part they played in the matter of land revenue remission. As my hon. Friends on this side of the House have said very often, it is a growing question and it is the crying need of the hour. The people, especially the agricultural population of this Province, have felt that with the tumbling down of prices it is not possible to pay the land revenue as a whole for the simple reason that they do not have the same market and the same prices as they had in times of yore. Settlements in some districts were made quite recently and such districts do find it hard to pay their land revenue in these days and, as I mentioned, Mr. President, during the land revenue debates, it is not possible for the ordinary agriculturist to go on paying land revenue as usual because the source from which he could pay is getting dried up. I am sure the Hon. Ministers realize this as well as any other Member of this House. Therefore I would like them to state categorically the part played by them in the matter of land revenue remission. I know they feel as strongly as we on this side of the House. I also know from the inner working of the Government that it is not always possible to get all we want. What I want them to state is as to exactly where we stand, whether they agreed with the policy pursued, or whether they are for any definite remission at least to the extent of the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

"Mr. President, I am sure that Members who have spoken from this side of the House have not spoken in any spirit of criticism. I think my Friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas, was quite right when he said that. If I am not letting out the secret, the Hon. the Education Minister felt nervous. At least he said if the cut motion was withdrawn the compliments paid to the Ministers might also stand

15th March 1934]

[Dr. P. Subbarayan]

withdrawn. (Laughter.) I do not think the Education Minister need be afraid of this, because there is the Press report and the report of the Legislative Council and the praises that have been conferred on the Hon. Gentleman will certainly find themselves recorded in the Press report this evening and in the proceedings of the Council when they come out published."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"May I know how much time the Hon. the Chief Minister will take for his speech?"

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"About 20 minutes."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I may inform hon. Members that this Demand will be put to vote at 5 o'clock exactly and the Hon. Minister also wants to reply."

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"Sir, this is the first time that I stand to speak on any Demand and I thought I would be allowed 30 minutes. I shall try to be brief and have my say within 10 or 15 minutes."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I must correct the hon. Member. I do not know if he has not spoken on a Demand two days back. To-day we have dealt with only two Demands and the hon. Member will have to close within 5 or 6 minutes."

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"Very good, Sir. I have given notice of two cut motions. One is a token cut which concerns the Hon. the Chief Minister in respect of his administration of the Local Self-Government Department. The other is of course a tangible cut of Rs. 1,000 per month in the salary of each Minister. I wish to confine myself to the first motion and say a few words upon it. I am doing away with all the preliminaries. There is absolutely no time for me to say anything upon the sins of commission and omission of the Hon. the Chief Minister in respect of the administration of the Local Self-Government institutions in the mufassal. Nor do I want to dilate upon his activities,—or rather non-activities—with regard to particular municipalities or district boards. I shall confine myself to my own district and that too to my own municipality. I think it may not be out of the valued memory of hon. Members of this House that the Bezwada Municipality was suppressed, rather superseded, in April last. Of course there was a hurry and scurry about this supersession on which I will say a word or two. As soon as supersession was ordered, it was put in the next day's Gazette. It was communicated by wire to the Collector, the Sub-Collector and the Chairman. This supersession took place hardly one week before the district board elections. The result was that only in Bezwada circle the Ministerial Party succeeded and in all other circles of the Revenue division, the Opposition succeeded. From this you can see whether or not there was any political purpose underlying this supersession. If the Hon. the Chief Minister had waited for a week more after the expiry of the elections to the district board,

[Mr. C. Kolanda Reddi]

[15th March 1934]

the result would have been different. When my hon. Friends, Dr. Subbarayan and others, were drawing the attention of the Hon. the Chief Minister to the fact that the powers given to him under the Taluk Boards Abolition Act might be abused, the Hon. the Chief Minister replied that they were under a misapprehension in thinking so. I ask whether the instance of the supersession of Bezwada Municipality is not an illustration in point. I can also mention another thing, viz., the appointment of the Raja of Chellapalli to be Honorary District Panchayat Officer. That is all past history.

“Now I come to the Bezwada Municipality. The Hon. the Chief Minister was good enough to appoint a Tahsildar of Guntur district by name Mr. Bhagavatula Adishesayya as the Special Officer of this municipality. Since he took charge of the municipality he began to play the role of King Stark. He went on dismissing one clerk after another in the municipality so that within a couple of months some 40 non-Brahmans were sent away. If you will allow me, I shall read from a list which I have got with me. . . .”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“That may be too long even for 20 minutes.”

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—“Fortunately or unfortunately in the case of these poor people appeals were made to the Collector and they were returned with the endorsement ‘he has no jurisdiction.’ Then appeals were made to the Local Self-Government Department and they were returned again with the endorsement that they should be sent through the Special Officer. They were kicked from post to pillar and from pillar to post. They became really tired of sending these appeals. Some of these appeals were hanging fire for some time and I do not know what the result of those appeals was. Sir, after this retrenchment of 40 clerks, the Special Officer appointed some 40 or 50 people in their stead. All these people come from Guntur as if there is paucity of men in Kistna district. It is an unwritten law with regard to the administration of local self-governing institutions that employees are picked from the locality itself. We do not go in for outsiders unless they are specialists or something of that sort. Another peculiarity is that most of the people who have been brought in are Vaidikies because this Special Officer happens to be Vaidiki. It has been the boast of the Justice Party that it has been started for giving equal opportunities to all communities. When such is the principle on which the Justice Party was started, this officer does not, under the aegis of that party, appoint the people of the locality even for posts of peons. Probably the men of Bezwada are not fit even to be put in as peons.

“Sir, then we come to Public Works. With regard to Public Works, I have to say something about the position of roads. We do not have the luxury of cement roads or tarred roads in the mufassal. There

15th March 1934] [Mr. C. Kolanda Reddi]

we have only rubbish roads and metalled roads, of either soft or hard metal. After the advent of this wonderful genius he has made the roads a hotch-potch of chips, big and small rubbish and slightly metal, either soft or hard (laughter). It is a conglomeration of all these. This is the composition of all the roads which he has repaired. There were petitions and mahazars sent from respectable people to all the higher authorities, but absolutely no action was taken against him. With regard to the construction of buildings and the making of furniture, grants were made liberally, perhaps by my Hon. Friend, the Secretary to the Local Self-Government Department, and all these have been spent away in so many beautiful ways.

“Coming to taxation, his doings are creditable in one respect. He goes on increasing taxation. For instance, profession tax has been doubled. In these days of economic depression when every one of us prays to the Government to accord remission to the ryots and when trade is at a stand still, here is a specimen of an administrator who has actually doubled some of the taxes. If there is to be an appeal for things of this sort, the people will have to pay first the amount of taxation and then make an appeal. He goes on increasing the house and other taxes too. Perhaps his ambition is to increase the revenue of 6 lakhs which we are now getting to 12 lakhs. I do not know whether it requires a genius to do this. I think a man who is fit to be sent to Mental hospital would do better.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The subject matter on which the hon. Member is speaking would be a proper subject for discussion in the Municipal Council, Bezwada.”

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—“My municipality is superseded.

“Sir, as I submitted we are getting as much as 6 lakhs and are spending 6 lakhs. We can well afford to have a Deputy Collector, a nice man with a vision and imagination. There are plenty of such people in the Presidency.

“Of course, in reply to a question of mine, the Hon. the Chief Minister said that the municipality could not afford it, but why not give some Tahsildar who is a capable man, a Tahsildar who is honest and god-fearing? Unfortunately this Special officer had an unsavoury past. As Tahsildar of Guntur there were complaints galore of corruption against him in respect of tank repairs (minor irrigation works), construction of cattle-pounds, grant of agricultural loans, grant of house-sites, cutting of babul trees in porambokes, etc. There were enquiries by successive Deputy Collectors, Messrs. Padbanabha Rao, James and Humayun Sahib. Sir, when he was something like a daughter-in-law under the control of her mothers-in-law, that is to say, under the control of Collectors and Deputy Collectors, even then, he was capable of doing so much and giving cause for so many complaints

[Mr. C. Kolanda Reddi] [15th March 1934]

against him. But now, Sir, he is the lord of all he surveys and there is no one to dispute his right. As Special officer, he is both Chairman and Council combined. . .”

Mr. G. SIMDIACHALAM PANTULU:—“ On a point of order, Mr. President, I must say that all those petitions were rejected as being frivolous and vexatious.” (Some hon. Members: “ It is a point of information, not a point of order.”)

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“ Order, order. I will now call upon the Hon. the Chief Minister to make his reply.”

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—“ Mr. President, may I make a prayer? A prayer, Sir? ”

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ Mr. President, before I answer the various remarks made by hon. Members concerning the portfolios under my charge, I wish first to refer to the question which has been raised by several Members including the Leader of the Opposition about the attitude of the Ministers on the resolution of this Council regarding the 25 per cent reduction in land revenue. In this connexion I need not say very much except this: hon. Members are aware that land revenue is a reserved subject and not a subject in charge of the Ministers. As regards the attitude we have taken up in the Cabinet, I believe, Sir, the Ministers have done what in their opinion is their duty to the party and to the country. As regards the attitude of the party, I am sure no doubt has been left in the minds of the Members of the Opposition as well as of the public by the various speeches made, on the floor of this House and by their attitude with regard to the cut motion.

“ Now coming to the other subjects, I may assure my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, that we have not forgotten the undertaking given to safeguard the interests of municipal employees in the appointment of commissioners and also the question of the taluk board employees. Before long, the Government will be able to take stock of the situation and have a clear idea of the position when they will decide what steps will be necessary to provide employment to those who will be found surplus to the immediate requirements.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari, wanted to know the reasons why the Government Order appointing the Raja of Chellapalli as election authority to conduct the elections to panchayat boards has been cancelled. If the hon. Member goes through the Local Boards Act of 1930, he will find that the main policy of the Act is to have the elections conducted as far as possible by official agency. This power of appointing election authorities has been delegated to the Inspector. We found that the Inspector had appointed the Raja of Chellapalli as election officer to conduct some of the panchayat elections in the Kistna district. I may state for the information of the House

15th March 1934]

[The Raja of Bobbili]

that it has never been the practice to appoint presidents of district boards, after the new Act came into force, to conduct these elections. The cancellation of this order is not at all a reflection on the Raja of Chellapalli. It has been cancelled, because it is against the policy of the Government and not because the Government have come to know of any instances in which the Raja of Chellapalli has abused the powers vested in him.

“ As regards the appointment of a panchayat officer made by the District Board President, I have answered questions on the subject on numerous occasions and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by my repeating them again.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. Krishnayya Choudari, has considered that the recent order of the Government of India which has appeared in the *Madras Mail* prohibiting the import of foreign rice is chiefly due to the efforts of the elected representatives of this Presidency in the Assembly and that the Ministers have failed in their duty to urge the claims of this Presidency. Sir, while acknowledging the services rendered by the Madras Members in the Assembly in this regard, I may state that this Government have done what lay in their power to bring to the notice of the Government of India the urgent necessity among other things to prohibit the import of foreign rice or to impose prohibitive duties in the interests of Madras and other rice-producing provinces of India. I may also state for the information of the House that this Government have not yet received any official confirmation of this report.

“ Sir, some of the criticisms made by hon. Members have to some extent been answered by other speakers on the floor of this House and as the time available is very limited and as I do not wish to take up very much of the time of the House, I do not propose to deal with all the details. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, has stated that the Government have rushed through the Local Boards Bill, but he has not made out a case showing that the Government or this House have committed any mistakes in dealing with this Bill by rushing it through. Probably, being an irresponsible critic, he has not realized the present critical position of local bodies, but the Government being responsible for the administration of local self-government have to take the necessary action in the best manner possible. We feel that the Act should be brought into force at the beginning of the next official year and that this measure has not been brought forward a day too soon. And if my hon. Friend reads the speech I made in connexion with this Bill, he will realize that the main principle of the Bill is a question which has been under consideration since 1926 and that no new matter has been sprung as a surprise on the public and on this House.

“ As regards the appointment of commissioners to municipalities, I believe he has fallen into another error. If he goes through the proceedings of this House he will find that the Opposition have gone to

[The Raja of Bobbili]

[15th March 1934]

the length of criticizing the Government for not including a larger number of municipalities in the original schedule. I do not see any justification for the hon. Member to attack the Government for seeking to implement the legislation passed by this House and carrying out the policy laid down by this House. I may also state that this measure of appointing commissioners to municipalities is neither a retrograde step nor is it undemocratic. It is not intended to handicap non-official chairmen in gaining experience of local self-government institutions. It is really a measure intended to give much needed relief to honorary workers by placing the executive duties and routine matters in the hands of the permanent executive as is done in many advanced countries.

“Then with regard to grants, my hon. Friend has stated without giving any figures for all the districts, that preference is being shown to the Telugu districts. Probably this is an attempt to play upon the feelings of Telugus and Tamils. He gave some details of grants to Ganjam, Vizagapatam and East Godavari, but I do not know how he deduced from those figures that no grants were given to Tamil districts. If he analyses those figures he will find that most of the grants for the bridges in these three districts have been sanctioned about three or four years ago. The probable reason why it was found necessary to give larger grants to those areas three or four years ago was, I believe, the fact that bridges on the majority of trunk roads in the southern districts had already been completed and in order to complete the scheme of bridging all trunk roads, it was necessary to make these grants to the Northern Circars. He has also criticized the Government for turning down the request of the Trichinopoly, Tanjore and South Arcot district boards for a grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs for constructing a certain bridge. Sir, I do not know where he has got this information from; probably he has not taken the trouble to verify it. No doubt, Sir, a request was made, but that was long after the time fixed for applications for grants and up till now we have not received any detailed estimates or plans. Before recommending grants from the Road Development Fund for the sanction of the Government of India, it is necessary that we should give all these particulars to the Government of India. Without them, it will not be possible to recommend grants.

5 p.m.

“I hope these local bodies will approach the Government next year in time with their requests which will be considered with care. My friend, Mr. Nachiyappa Gounder is apparently not satisfied with the replies to the questions delivered on the floor of this House and he has again put to me questions regarding tenders. I have stated that the Government have issued an Order, to the effect that the lowest satisfactory tenders should be accepted, and in the case of complaints it will not be possible for the Government to make enquiries themselves. What we do in those cases is to transmit the papers to the Examiner of Local

15th March 1934] [The Raja of Bobbili]

Fund Accounts who is also a Government officer who would submit a report in the usual course with his audit reports.

“ My friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas has advised the Government that great care should be exercised in giving effect to the principles of the new Local Boards Bill. I do realize, Sir, that the principles underlying the Bill are of far-reaching importance and will be of permanent value to this province and in bringing the Bill into operation, the Government will exercise the greatest possible care and try to administer it in the best way possible and in the interests of the province.

“ My friend, Dr. Subbarayan, has mentioned about the undertaking which I have given to nominate a member of the Depressed Classes to the Tirupathi Devasthanam Committee. No doubt I would have been very glad if it has been found possible to nominate a member of this community in the first instance. But I must first of all state that no undertaking was given that a member of a particular community would be appointed but I stated that the interests of all communities would be safeguarded. After further consideration the Government found. . . .”

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ May I state that I myself took care to say that it was not an undertaking? But the amendment was withdrawn on the undertaking given that consideration would be paid to the question of nominating a member of the depressed classes to this Committee.”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—“ My hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition is well aware what the present general law of the country is. I believe, Sir, he is the Member who gave notice of the Temple Entry Bill; on further examination the Government found that under the existing law, members of the Depressed Classes. . . .”

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—“ May I remind the Hon. Minister of one fact? If I remember right, a member of the Depressed Classes was appointed to the South Arcot Temple Committee which looks after many religious temples including the great shrine at Chidambaram; no objection was taken and no legal measures were taken.”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI :—“ I know that a member of the Depressed Classes community was appointed to this Advisory Committee for South Arcot and there will be no objection to such appointments. But the Committee under the Tirupathi Devasthanam Act is empowered to deal with the administration of the temple and the Government were advised that members of this community are not permitted to go to the hill. In these circumstances the Government feel that it will not be desirable, until further legislation is enacted, to appoint a member of this community who will not be free to go to the hill top or to inspect the temples and other things. Of course my hon. Friend seems to think that this appointment alone is going to ameliorate the condition of the Depressed Classes. As I have already stated,

[The Raja of Bobbili]

[15th March 1934]

although I am never for racial discrimination amongst castes and communities, nor am I against temple entry, I may state that in my opinion the real development and advancement of these communities will depend more on the economic and educational development and the manner in which many of those who speak and champion the cause of these communities actually treat them in social life. Coming next to my hon. Friend, Mr. Kolanda Reddi, I may state for his information that on the materials available to the Government, they passed this order and the materials which came into possession of the Government afterwards really show that Government have not been a day too late in superseding the municipality. Even before this, I have deprecated the attempts of certain hon. Members—taking advantage of their privileged position in this House—to make uncalled for and unsubstantiated attacks on public servants. I would only request my hon. Friend, if he has got the necessary materials, to bring definite charges against this officer when Government will certainly make necessary enquiries and take such action as is necessary in the public interest; I am sure that in making such complaints, he will not forget all the charges he made on the floor of this House to-day. In the opinion of the Government this officer is one of the best officers in the Revenue Department. . . .”

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—“On a matter of personal explanation, Sir, many petitions have been placed before me; so many people are prepared to give tangible evidence about all the items I have placed before this House. I wanted to place all the full facts before this House but I was not allowed. I have as much responsibility as any other Member of this Honourable House.”

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“If I understand the Hon. Minister aright, he says that the hon. Member must come forward with definite allegations of his own and not refer to allegations made by other people.”

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—“I have tangible evidence to substantiate all the allegations I have made on the floor of this House.”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“I never thought that the hon. Member was speaking on behalf of others. Having made serious allegations against the officer in this House, it is his duty and he must take the responsibility of bringing this matter to the notice of the Government and see that they are substantiated. He has not stated that he is speaking on behalf of some party. I shall close my remarks by saying that, in the opinion of the Government, he is one of the most efficient tasildars in the Revenue Department and he was selected for this special post by the Board of Revenue in view of his merits and special qualifications.”

15th March 1934]

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"One word of personal explanation, Sir. I am one with the Hon. the Chief Minister when he says that it is the economic condition of these classes that should be ameliorated; but I rather think that the economic development will come when equality is recognized and it is in that sense that I pleaded that one member of this community should be appointed to the Tirumalai-Tirupathi Devasthanam Committee. Once there is recognition of this equality, economic amelioration will follow."

* Mr. B. C. BASU DEV:—"Sir, before I seek the leave of this House to withdraw my motion, I should like to apologise to my hon. Friend, Mr. Sreshta, against whom I used strong language. I hope I had misunderstood the spirit of his interruption and I trust he will accept my apology. Some friends on the Opposition commented on the chance I, a member of the Ministerial Party, had of moving this cut motion. The Leader of the Opposition and some of the Members on the other side had given notice of cut motions; if they were not in their seats when their motions were reached, they had to thank themselves for it. I am confident that I did not transgress any Parliamentary practice or violate party discipline."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"I object to the motion being withdrawn."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is 'that the allotment of Rs. 1,65,300 for Ministers—Pay of Officers—be reduced by Rs. 100'."

The motion was lost.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The question is 'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,47,300 under Demand XI—Ministers, Civil Secretariats and Miscellaneous—Transferred'."

The Demand was carried, and the grant was made.

The House adjourned to meet again on the 17th instant at 11 a.m.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.